

Norway

I. Virile Ways of the Modern Vikings

By A. MacCallum Scott

Author of "Through Finland," etc.

THE spirit of Norway is the spirit of the North. It is the home of the gods of the North. To each race and country its ancient gods, earth-born, the personification of natural forces and instincts. Baal, Zeus, Apollo, Pan, and the Celtic gods of forest and river, still haunt the lands of their origin. Thor and Odin still dwell among the barren mountains of the North, in remote valleys where the tall pine grows undisturbed beside foaming, snow-fed rivers, or on the shores of fjords where inaccessible cliffs frown down upon green waters like the battlements of Valhalla.

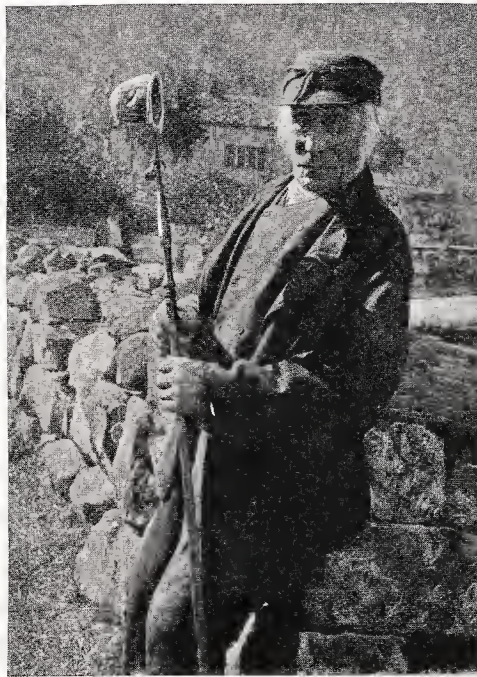
Europe, lying wholly within the temperate zone, has been the breeding-ground of all the great ruling races of the modern world. And of all the races of Europe the most remarkable are those which have sprung from the great Gothic stock which developed its special characteristics by unknown centuries of evolution in Scandinavia. Stream after stream of that potent blood came out of the North to revivify the decadent races of the South.

Goths, Vandals, Varangians, the

followers of Ruric, Vikings, Normans, all springing from the same fertile stock, penetrated Europe from the Baltic to the Mediterranean, and inherited the wreckage of the Roman Empire. The "western civilization" which dominates the world to-day is in all its essential features the direct outcome of the union of the insurgent, individualistic, adventurous spirit of the North with the culture and science of Rome.

Climatic is an important factor in the development of racial characteristics. The North is a Spartan mother, and her sons are nourished

in adversity and indurated to the struggle with nature. Fruits do not drop into their lap. They are trained to stand alone, compelled to exercise foresight. Like the pine that braves the tempest, their fibre is toughened by the struggle for life. The earliest members of the Gothic race to settle in Norway found in these sheltered fjords and narrow valleys and virgin forests plenty of food for those who had the skill and the strength to win it, and when their numbers had multiplied beyond the limits of their food



WARDEN OF VIK, HARDANGER

The conscientious discharge of his duties is seen in its sternest aspect when he wields the long rod, to which offertory bag and bell are attached, with a careful precision warranted to awaken the attention of all dormant worshippers

Photo, S. J. Beckwith



TRYSTING HOUR OF HARDANGER HIGHLAND LASS

No attire could prove more attractive on the fair-haired Hardanger girls than the neat white blouse and the cloth vest enclosing an elaborately beaded front; a fact of which this Norwegian Juliet is fully cognisant and which, maybe, is partly responsible for the half-smile that plays about her lips as with happy, expectant eyes she scans the path winding towards her dwelling

Photo, Publishers' Photo Service

resources they could send forth a breed of men able to find and take what they required elsewhere.

The country, save for the literary associations of the ancient sagas, lacks the historic interest of Italy, Greece, and those lands which were provinces of the Roman Empire. It has not the continuous monumental record. The early buildings were made of wood, which could seldom stand the wear and tear of centuries of northern winters. A building such as the cathedral at Trondhjem is unique. Hence the country gives an impression of newness and freshness which is almost transatlantic. Here is a raw, young

world. It is a bizarre contrast, this crude youth in juxtaposition with the most recent developments of science—electric light, electric power, telephones, etc. The waves of modern civilization lap round the coast, which is familiar to tourists, but there are vast areas in the interior which have never been opened up by railways, where, in remote valleys, the people live their life in all the ancient simplicity.

The coast of Norway is one vast sheltered harbour for thousands of miles. It is protected by a continuous belt of islands, large and small, the Skjaergaard, or fence of skerries, through the narrow straits between which ships wind their

NORWAY & THE NORWEGIANS

way as through a canal. Between these islands and the mainland there is a channel or belt of deep water, deeper than the outside ocean. The fjords are not river estuaries, but narrow, deep-sea channels, branching out in all directions until they almost meet, and penetrating sometimes one hundred miles into the interior of the country. Their towering cliffs run down precipitously into deep water.

The interior is a huddle of grey, rounded mountains culminating in the snow-clad heights of the Dovrefjeld and the Jotunfjeld, or Giant mountains.

These are not peaked like the Alps. They have been ground down by glaciers, denuded, scraped, harrowed, by the ice plough of the Titans. Some relics of the Ice Age still remain in the shape of glaciers which feed the rivers that pour down the narrow valleys winding between the mountains.

Such a land, and such a coast, were essential for the breeding of such a race of seafarers as the Vikings. The Norwegians are a pure race, preserving all the characteristics of their Viking ancestors, and it is in the light of the Viking age that they should be studied.



CENTURY OLD STABBUR ON THE HALLINGDAL HILLS

Some of the most famous Norwegian sagas are associated with the Hallingdal region which still retains many of its ancient characteristics, displayed chiefly by the highly-coloured costumes of its peasantry and the picturesque mountain farms, or saeters, with their adjoining outhouses. These latter, known as stabburs, are of primitive structural forms, often quaintly carved and decorated

Photo, Donald, McLeish



LEISURED LIVELINESS IN CHRISTIANIA'S MARKET SQUARE

Norway's modern capital, beautifully situated at the foot of wooded hills, was founded in 1624, after the destruction by fire of the old city of Oslo, by Christian IV. of Denmark, whose statue adorns the Stor-Torv, or great market. On the east side of the square rises Vor Frelser's Kirke, the Church of Our Saviour, consecrated in 1697, the massive red-brick tower of which forms a notable landmark

Who would visit Greece without knowing ancient Greek history? Similarly, one misses the peculiar virtue and significance of Norway if one has not read the sagas. Fjords, cliffs, mountains, waterfalls, raging torrents, afford food for but a moment's wonder. It is the old Border Ballads that have made the Tweed famous among rivers. But for them, as Alexander Smith says :

The Tweed were as poor as the Amazon,
That, for all the years it has roll'd,
Can tell but how fair was the morning red,
How sweet the evening gold.

In spirit, Norway is one of the most democratic countries in the world. All titles of nobility were abolished a

century ago. It is a country of smallholders, or peasant proprietors, and the proportion of proprietors to tenants has steadily increased. In their little farms they lead a life of simple prosperity, without much money to spend on imported luxuries, but with ample supply of the necessities of life. They are courteous and hospitable to strangers, without any of the servility which is too common a feature of tourist-frequented countries. Care must be taken not to offend their sense of dignity. They are quick to resent an affront or a slight, not by violence, but by a quiet refusal to have anything further to do with the offender. The man who

NORWAY & THE NORWEGIANS

acts as guide or boatman is not awed by the wealth or rank of the tourist he is escorting. He is a landed proprietor. He ranks himself as an equal. The visitor who tries to treat him as a mere porter will soon find his mistake.

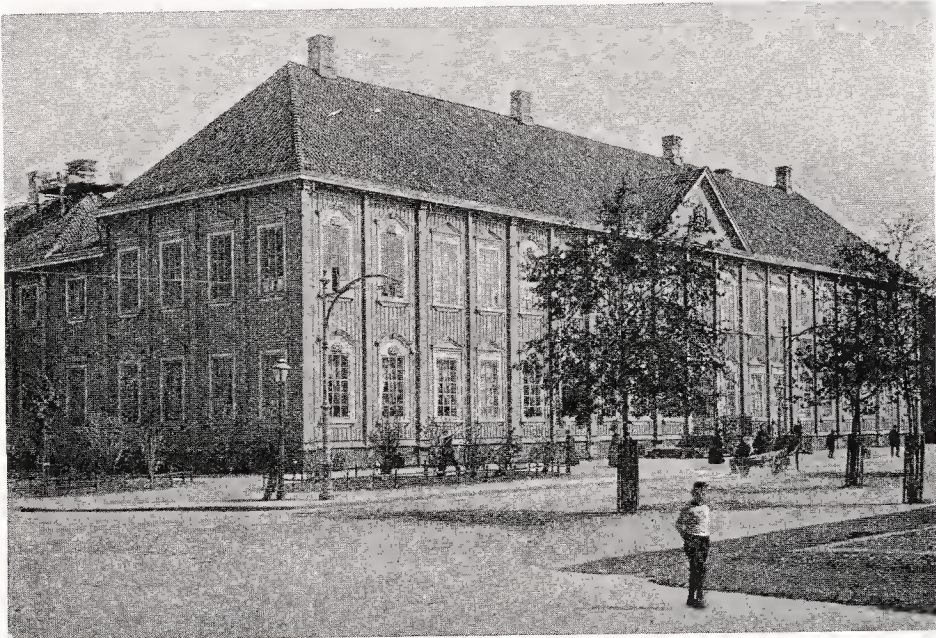
The chief industries are fishing, timber, and agriculture. The abundance of cheap water-power, and the facility with which it may be adapted to the generation of electricity, have given rise, in recent years, to considerable industrial development.

As becomes the descendants of the Vikings, the Norwegians are matchless sailors, and in the pursuit of the fishing industry in the wild northern seas they find full scope for their aptitude for the sea. The Lofoden islands, within the Arctic circle, farther north than Iceland, are the centre of the cod fishery. Their boats are of the antique Viking build, the sight of which used to strike terror along the shores of Britain and France. The herring fishery is concentrated

round Stavanger and Haugesund, in the south, where it gives rise to great industries on shore. The rivers abound in salmon, which, when dried and smoked make a world-famous delicacy. The whaling and sealing fleets venture far beyond the North Cape to Spitsbergen, Franz Joseph Land, Nova Zemlia, the Kara Sea, and even along the northern shores of Siberia, their unchronicled voyages rivalling those of the most famous Arctic explorers.

It is only natural that such a people should be pre-eminent in shipping, and in proportion to her population, Norway is more largely interested in shipping than any other nation in the world. In actual tonnage, before the Great War, she was only exceeded by Britain, Germany, and the United States of America, and since then her position has considerably improved.

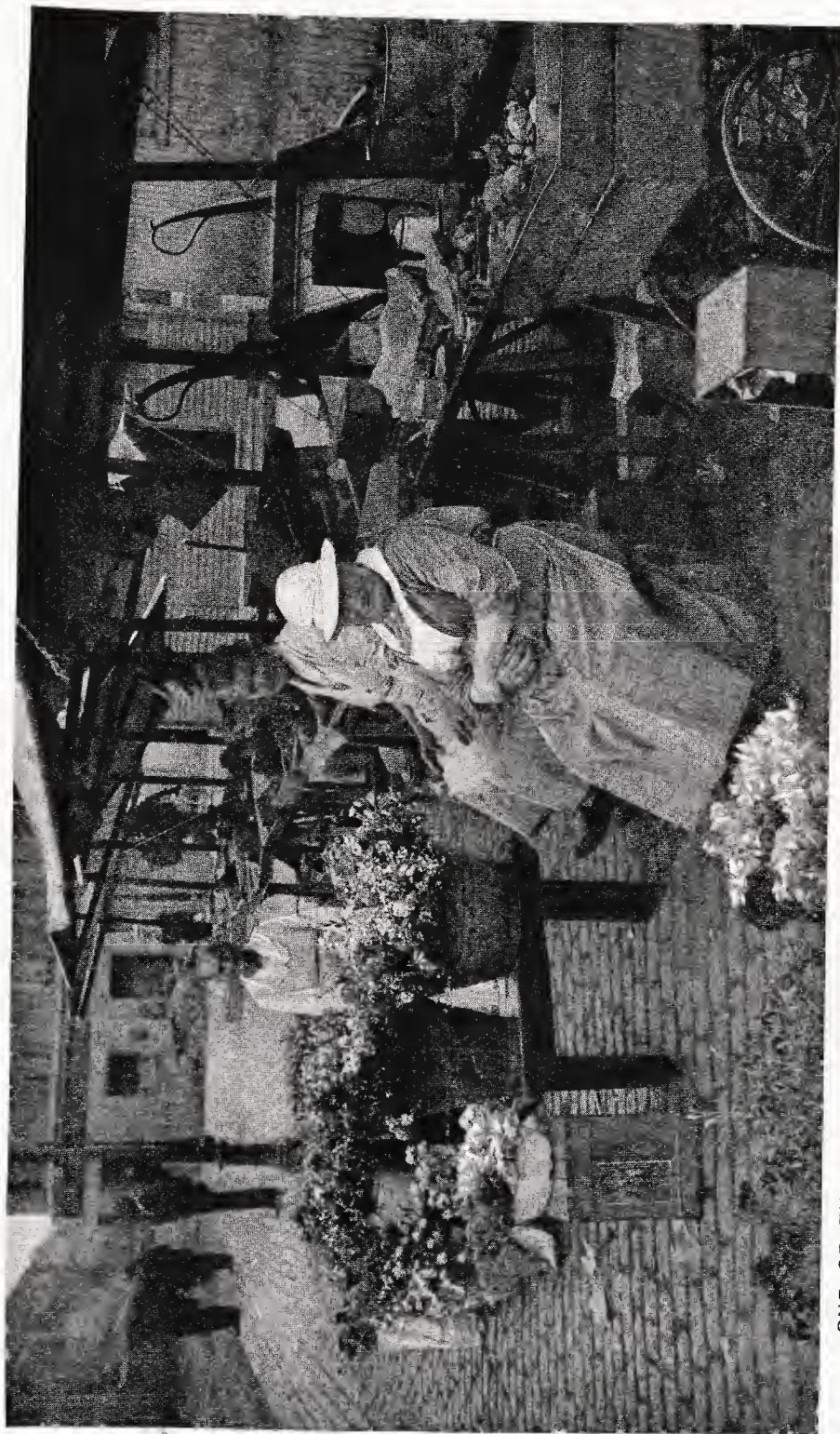
The Norwegian forests, which cover about one fifth of the total area, are to be found chiefly in the south, in the



SIMPLE WOODEN STRUCTURE THAT SERVES AS A ROYAL PALACE

The royal palace of Trondhjem, which stands facing a public footway of the Munkegade, one of the principal streets, is entirely unpretentious in its appearance; constructed only of wood, it is reputed to be the largest wooden building in Europe. The governor of the province now resides there, but it is used by the King when visiting the city, and on the occasion of coronation festivities

Photo, S. J. Beckett



ONE OF THE QUIET CORNERS FOR BERGEN'S RICH DISPLAY OF VEGETABLES, FRUITS, AND FLOWERS

The people of Bergen are great flower-lovers, and their town, owing to its humid and mild climate—not unlike that of the west coast of Scotland—is exceptionally rich in flowers. Bright blooms give a touch of warm colour to the old market place throughout the week, and vie with ripe berries and variegated vegetables in attracting the attention of the passers-by ; but there is one day in each seven when they reign supreme—then the portable greenhouses make their appearance, and blossoms of every description and hue shed their radiance about the large open square

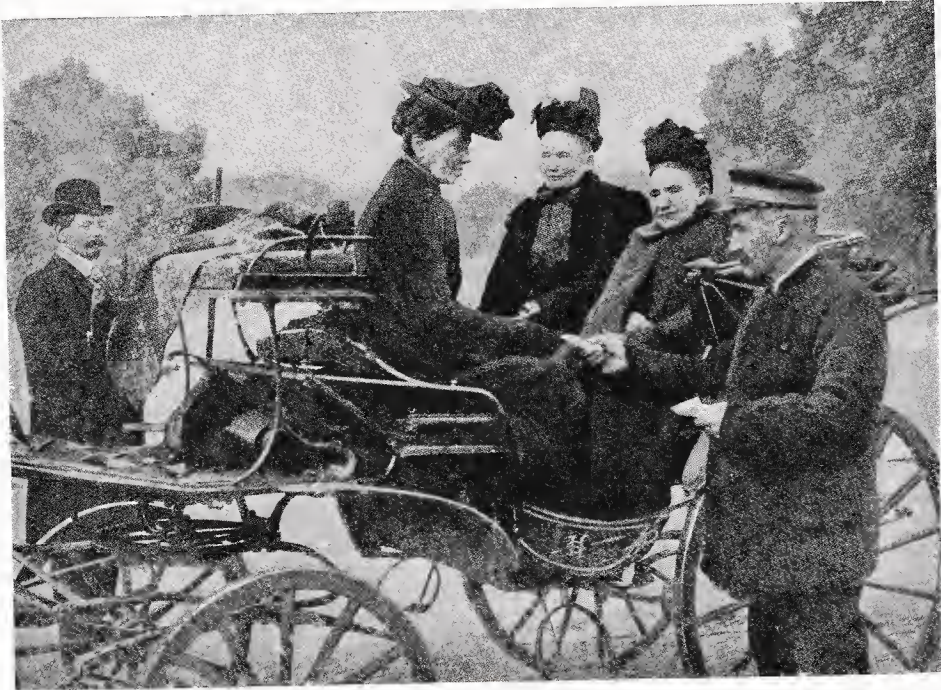
Photo, Publishers' Photo Service

NORWAY & THE NORWEGIANS

basin of the river Glommen, which includes the great inland sea of Mjösen, and round the Trondhjem Fjord. The luxuriant pine and fir forests give place to birch in the far north, and this again gives place to dwarf birch and alder as one approaches the Arctic Ocean. These forests are prolific in wild berries of

great masses of timber accumulate behind it and the task of setting them free is one of great peril. Nearer the coast these logs give rise to large and profitable industries of saw-milling, wood-pulp, paper, and match factories.

Agriculture is the occupation of about forty per cent. of the population.



RECORDING THEIR VOTES AT A POLLING BOOTH IN CHRISTIANIA

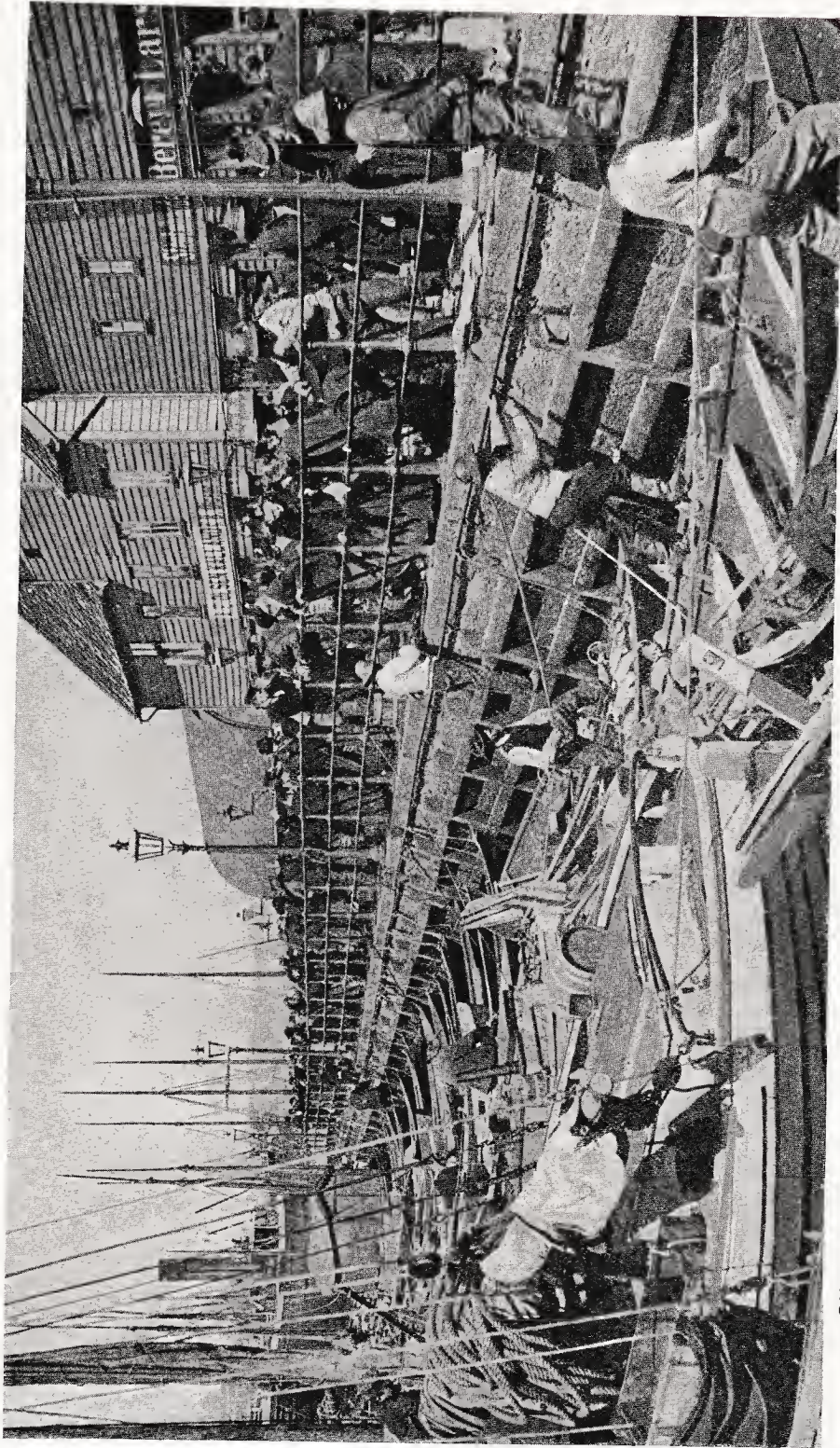
Though old in years and conservative in many of their ideas, these country women are never loath to encourage all advanced views that tend to promote the well-being of their compatriots. Norway was the first independent state to grant universal suffrage, and not only may seats in the Storting, or Parliament, be occupied by women, but state appointments are open to them

all kinds. The ground is often carpeted with wild Alpine strawberries, and there is a thick undergrowth of blackberries, cranberries, whortleberries, with cloudberries in the marshes, and raspberries in the clearings. Among the denizens of the forests are the elk, the largest surviving wild animal in Europe, the bear, the lynx, the red deer, and, in remoter valleys, the wolf.

All the winter the lumbermen are hard at work felling timber. Theirs is a solitary and a wild life, demanding great strength and endurance. In spring the logs are floated down the swollen rivers. When a jam occurs

Wheat is grown in the south, barley, rye, and oats farther north, but the corn supply has to be largely imported. The rearing of cattle, sheep, and horses is the staple occupation. The pastures are excellent. Among the most familiar features of the Norwegian landscape are the curious pegged posts, like hat-racks, dotted over the fields, on which the hay and corn are dried, and the fences of rough wooden laths all slanting upwards.

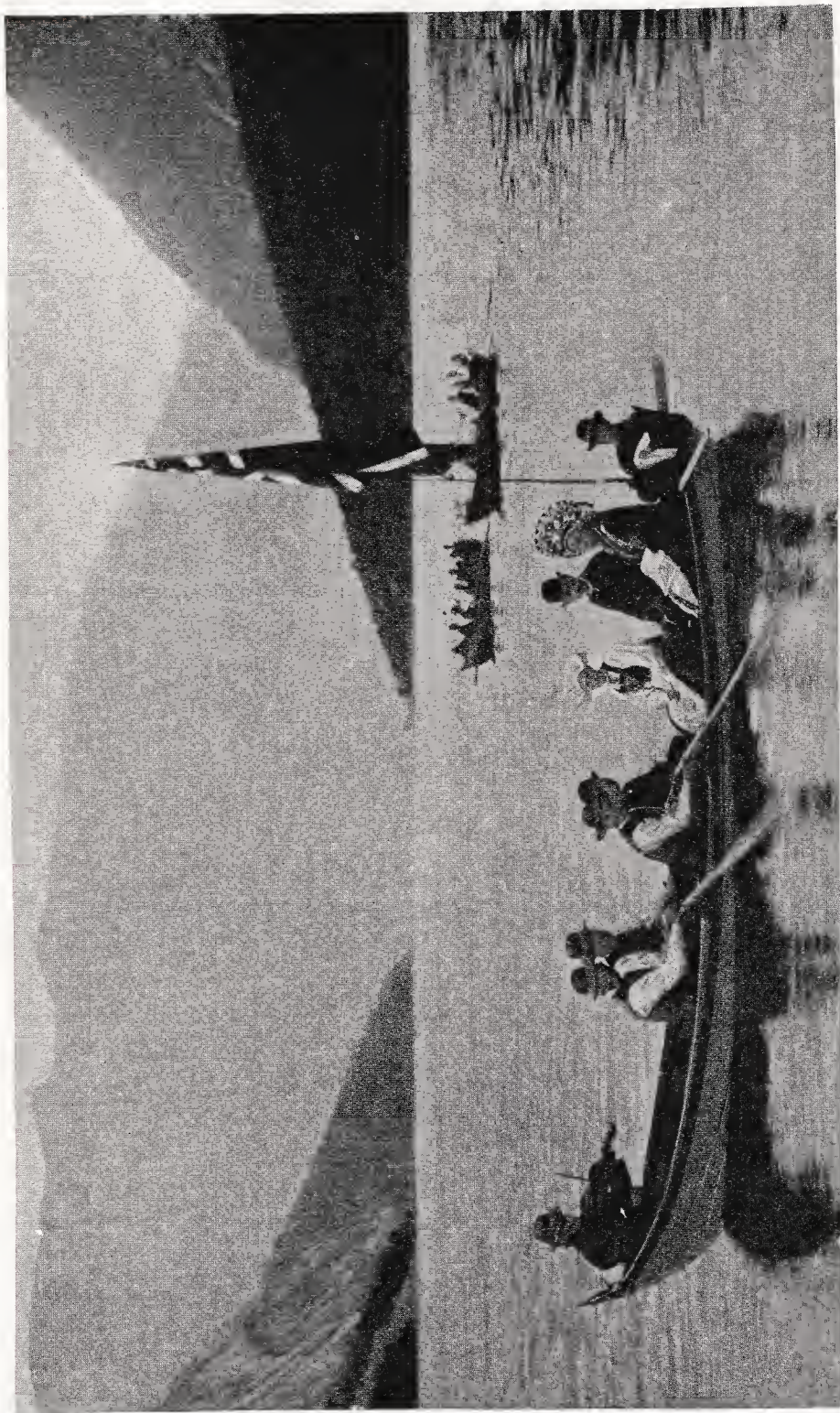
Only a small proportion of the total surface is suitable for cultivation, and to each farm in the valley there is generally attached an area of mountain



QUAYSIDE SCENE AT BERGEN: AMID THE SPARS AND RIGGING OF A NORWEGIAN FISHING FLEET

One glimpse of the town of Bergen is usually sufficient to ascertain with all confidence that fishing is its chief industry; for the harbour is bristling with tall masts of the boats, and fish in vast numbers are drying on all sides. The fishmarket on Thursdays and Saturdays might certainly rank as one of the busiest fish emporiums of the world. Fish of every size and shape—cod, herring, and mackerel represent the chief harvest—are being sold on all sides, and the bargaining is carried on from the boats, stalls, barrows, carts, and by large tanks where the live fish are swimming

Photo, Underwood Press Service



DELIGHTFUL PICTURE OF NORWEGIAN NATIONAL LIFE AFLOAT IN ROW-BOATS ON THE WATERS OF SIMODAL FJORD. At no time are the old-world Hardanger customs seen to such advantage as during the celebration of a wedding. The bride's hair, worn loose, is surmounted by a resplendent crown, usually lent for the occasion, and the handsomely-beaded corsage, silver jewelry, and embroidered napkin covering her hands, are distinctive features of Norwegian nuptials. No marriage feast is complete without the fiddler, whose duty it is to charm away all evil spirits by his melodious music. The journey to church is frequently undertaken by boat, and many happy parties are borne across the still waters of the mountain-girded fjords.

Photo, J. F. Stevens

NORWAY & THE NORWEGIANS

pasture. Often these pastures are at a considerable distance from the farm. In winter the cattle are housed and fed in the farm, but every spring sees a migration en masse to the mountain pastures. The herds are driven up the steep mountain paths to the higher valleys by the girls and young women of the farms who remain with them all through the summer, living in one-roomed wooden huts, known as saeters.

Much the same system used to prevail in the Scottish Highlands, where the summer pastures were known as shielings.

The saeter system is one of the most characteristic and picturesque features of Norwegian country life. It is a strenuous life, for there is much milking and cheese and butter-making to be done. The men come up at intervals from the farms with horses to



HARVESTING BARLEY IN A FERTILE VALLEY NEAR TRONDHJEM

Barley makes a successful crop in South Trondhjem, and has been reaped six weeks after sowing, while records show that two crops a year are not uncommon. The ripe ears, cut down with the sickle, are bound into sheaves and stuck one above another to dry on poles, which at a distance look for all the world like rows of sturdy soldiers lined up for parade.

Photo, Underwood Press Service



DRYING HAY CROPS IN THE HEART OF THE NORWEGIAN HIGHLANDS
 So damp is their climate that the Norwegian agriculturists have considerable difficulty in drying the newly-cut hay; and to enable the air to reach the crop more readily, they erect long, fence-like structures, several feet high, on which the hay is stacked. Sometimes the hay is piled up on separate poles, as is done in the Swiss and Austrian Alps

Photo, Underwood Press Service

carry away the produce. There is joy in the fresh air of spring after the long dark winter. The flaxen-haired, red-cheeked girls are merry at their work and quite fearless of their isolation. They bring their Sunday finery with them, and, though no church bells can be heard for a score of miles, they celebrate the holy day in the bright

colours of the national gala costume, which has its characteristic features in every valley. Visits from amorous swains from the farms are not infrequent, and many a marriage follows the saeter season. Public opinion is somewhat lax so long as marriage is assured.

In the far north in the Arctic province of Finmark, whose shores are beaten by

NORWAY & THE NORWEGIANS

the icy waters of the Polar Sea, is to be found a different race of men with different ways of life, the Lapps and Finns. They are the survivors of the aboriginal population of Europe, pushed up into the bleak north by better equipped rivals. Traces of them have been found in Britain. The Finns were later arrivals, but they apparently

themselves by the produce of large herds of reindeer and by fishing and hunting. Until quite recent times they were pagan, and were regarded with a strange mixture of repulsion and fear by their more civilized neighbours. The secrets of ancient magic were supposed to survive among them. They had converse with the beasts of the wild and



BRINGING HOME THE SCANTY HERBAGE GROWN ON THE HEIGHTS

So thrifty and painstaking are the Norwegian farmers that every blade of grass on the steep hillsides is cherished for the use of the cattle during the long winter. Clipped and collected annually, these miniature mountain crops are sometimes transferred from their high altitudes to the valleys below by pulleys on long wires, and brought down the fjords to their destinations by boats

Photo, Underwood Press Service

sprang from the same remote stock as the Lapps, from which also came the Samoyeds of Siberia and other Arctic races.

The Lapps are the most primitive and undeveloped of all the races of Europe, to which they are alien in physique and in speech. They belong to a prehistoric phase of civilization. They live a separate life in turf huts and wigwams of reindeer hide, and support

with strange beings who dwelt under the earth. They could transport their bodies invisibly from place to place. They could sell to sailors a favourable wind in a sack, or let loose a hurricane of death and destruction. In the wild legends of the country these Wizards of the North play a weird part.

Altogether there are some 20,000 Lapps in Norway, and under the protection of the Government they have



ALL HANDS TO THE RAKES IN THE HAY-MAKING SEASON

The thrift of the Norwegian people is strikingly illustrated in the way they wrest a livelihood from the narrow stretches of fertile land scattered about the valleys and mountains. About nine-tenths of the farmers own their properties—a privilege that adds a zest to toil; while nature does her share, and the vegetation is usually remarkable for the rapidity of its growth

Photo, S. J. Beckett

NORWAY & THE NORWEGIANS

recently shown a tendency to increase in numbers. The parent stock is the Fjeld or Mountain Lapps, who live a nomad life, moving from pasture to pasture with their reindeer herds according to the season. Others have settled down on the coast and on the banks of rivers and maintain themselves by fishing, being expert and fearless sailors. These are the most advanced towards civilization.

Christiania, the capital, is a modern town, interesting chiefly for its picture galleries, its collection of northern antiquities, and the beautiful scenery

whereby it is surrounded. At Holmenkollen, a few miles out of town, one may enjoy the winter sports of ski-ing and tobogganing to as great advantage as in Switzerland. Up the rich valley of the Glommen there is an endless variety of river, forest, lake, and mountain scenery.

Many tourists see only the coast towns, cruising in the sheltered waters of the Skjaergaard, exploring the wildly picturesque Sogne and Hardanger Fjords and perhaps rounding the North Cape to see the Midnight Sun. Christiansand, Stavanger, Bergen, and Trondhjem,



CONFIDENTIAL TITLE-TATTLE OF COUNTRY MARKETERS

Once a week the country folk from the surrounding districts visit Bergen to dispose of their garden produce or to fill their baskets with the wares of which their store cupboards stand in need. But business is never so pressing as to forbid indulgence in neighbourly conversation, and to many old dames half the enjoyment of the outing lies in the interchange of little titbits of gossip



WAYLAYING THE UNWARY SALMON IN THE BALHOLM DISTRICT

In autumn, when the salmon journey up stream to reach the breeding-grounds in the more shallow water, the fishermen of the Balholm district resort to many ingenious devices by which they effect the capture of their prey, and lower long nets from lengthy ladders on stilts, not unlike the wooden construction illustrated on page 3068, from which tunny fish are sighted off the Istrian coast

Photo, Underwood Press Service

are flourishing shipping and fishing towns. The live fish market in the harbour at Bergen is one of the most animated and entertaining sights for those who make a study of national characteristics. Trondhjem, though not the modern capital, is in many respects the more interesting. Although it lies as far north as Iceland, the Gulf Stream has given it a temperate climate. It is the centre of a rich and populous province, and here, in the days of the early kings, was the real heart of Norway. The cathedral, which dates from the Norman period, is one of the oldest relics of Northern Christianity.

But there are many other little towns along the coast, isolated from all communication with the rest of the world except by sea. It is a pleasant sight to see half the population crowd down to the pier to welcome the steamer, the blue-eyed, blonde girls all dressed in vivid colours. What a lure are these outward-bound ships for the sons and daughters of the Vikings! Piracy is no longer a recognized profession, but as emigrants many of them find fortunes in the New World.

Like all northern races, the Norwegians drink spirits in preference to beer and wine. Bränvin, a very strong,

NORWAY & THE NORWEGIANS

raw spirit, used to be the national beverage. It was cheap and plentiful, and there were no restrictions as to its manufacture or sale, and it was consumed in such large quantities that alarming signs of physical degeneration began to manifest themselves. In Sweden similar conditions prevailed. It was to meet this danger that the system of controlling the liquor traffic, which is known as the Gothenburg System, and which has excited so much curiosity among temperance reformers in other countries, was devised.

Sweden and the Gothenburg System

Wide powers of local option were granted to the local authorities throughout both countries, and among their options was that of handing over the whole traffic in spirits in any district to a company whose profits were limited to a small fixed percentage on the capital employed. All surplus profits were paid to the state or devoted to objects of public utility. The idea was to eliminate the stimulus of private profit in the pushing of sales. Experiments in a similar kind of "disinterested management" are now being carried out in a large number of "Trust" public-houses throughout Great Britain.

Evasion of Prohibition in Norway

In Sweden the operation of local option generally led to the prohibition of the sale of spirits in the country districts and the handing of it over to "disinterested management" companies in the towns. It has been effective in producing a great change for the better in the habits and well-being of the people. In some of the towns the temperance feeling has developed so strongly under this system that complete prohibition of the sale of spirits has been enacted. Prohibition in Norway cannot be said to be so effective. There are numerous loopholes, and many abuses have sprung up, and many temperance reformers believe that it is better to have the traffic recognized

and controlled than driven underground and uncontrolled.

A generation before America "went dry" travellers to Norway used to report amusing instances of evasion of the prohibition. Stavanger is a prohibition town, and its inhabitants have the reputation of being what is called in Scotland "unco guid." In Stavanger I found no difficulty in purchasing a bottle of whisky, and when I expressed to a native my surprise at being able to do so so easily, he remarked humorously:—"No! No! Not whisky! You could not do it! You must not say so. Whatever happened, you did not do it. There are no spirits sold in Stavanger. It is the law and it must be so. It would not be right to say otherwise." His eyes twinkled as he produced a bottle from his suit-case. But Norway, by means of the Gothenburg System, has overcome one of the greatest perils to her national life.

Radiance of the Midnight Sun

A yachting cruise to the North Cape is the easiest way to see the Midnight Sun. In these high latitudes within the Arctic circle there is a period in the height of summer during which the sun never sets at all, and the further north one goes the longer this period is. At Tromsø it is nine weeks, at Hammerfest eleven, at the North Cape twelve, and on the island of Spitsbergen eighteen. There is, of course, a corresponding period during winter in which the sun never rises above the horizon. The long Arctic day is balanced by the long Arctic night.

Trondhjem lies just outside the radius of the Midnight Sun. Towards the end of June the sun just sinks at midnight below the northern horizon and no more. There is no division between sunset and dawn—the same rosy flush serves for both. The only difference between midnight and midday is that the midnight light casts no shadows. It is a gentler, milder radiance. The sun is not away long enough for the earth

NORWEGIAN FOLK

Of the Fjeld & Fjord



Stout bits of humanity are the hardy Norsemen, be they well seasoned with years or boasting but as many summers as the hand has fingers

Photo, S. J. Beckett



In the stolkjaerre, the national vehicle of Norway, one may drive at leisure, drinking in all the wild beauty of the rugged countryside



Through the roof's aperture, serving as window and outlet for smoke, the noonday sun has lighted this Saetersdal home nigh on 300 years

Photos, Donald McLeish



Naerö Fjord, grandest of Norway's waters, is formed by a gigantic split in the mountain rampart into which the impetuous ocean has flowed

Photo, Donald McLeish



Daydreams hold the mind and stay the hand of many a Cinderella tending the primitive open hearth of Hallingdal's old-world farmsteads

Photo, Donald McLeish



The "skaut," or headdress of gophered linen, denotes the Hardanger wife, while smiling industry proclaims her a happy and devoted one

Photo, S. J. Beckett



High hopes and happy hearts they carry as to merry wedding airs they turn their steps, man and wife, towards the cosy Hardanger collage

Photo, S. J. Beckett



In this angel figure, lowered from the roof as a baptismal font, is seen the touch of fantasy never lacking in Norway's village churches

Photo, Donald McLeish



True to the customs and costumes of yore, it is small wonder that Hallingdal girls are enthralled by the magic and mystery of Norse sagas

Photo, Donald McLeish

to have time to cool by night. The effect on vegetation is extraordinary.

Here, in this sheltered fjord, and for miles up the valley of the Nid, within three degrees of the Arctic circle, the summer herbage grows as luxuriantly as in a hothouse. Here are to be found most of the familiar English trees, except the oak, and the sides of the valleys and the low foot-hills are variegated with a hundred delightful shades of green. The warm air is aromatic with the scent of pines and sweet briars. The turf is thick and springy, inviting the wayfarer to languorous abandonment. All afternoon crowds of people bathe along the western beach, for the most part wearing only the livery of nature, and in a neighbouring meadow a troop of naked little boys are sporting like cupids, chasing butterflies.

Magic-Working Wand of Spring

As in every northern country, the annual coming of spring is a miracle, the astonishing character of which can hardly be appreciated by those who know only southern lands—the contrast with winter is so swift and violent. For six months the country has been ice-bound and buried in snow. The days have shortened till they almost disappeared. Then comes a week or so of thaw, the days lengthen, and spring comes rushing up the valleys. The flowers can hardly wait for the departure of the snow. Green foliage is bursting everywhere. As the days lengthen a semi-tropical climate is developed and one can almost see the plants growing from day to day. A spirit of exhilaration possesses man and beast, and on the farms everyone is astir with preparations for the annual exodus to the saeters in the mountains.

This gaiety reaches its climax at the festival of midsummer on the eve of June 24. This festival bears the name of S. John, whose "day" it is, but it is really a survival of the old pagan festival of the sun, which seems to have been part of a primitive nature worship

among most European nations. In Norway, as in other Scandinavian countries, the holiday spirit reigns supreme on S. John's Eve. Every house, every ship, every carriage is decorated with green birch branches and the children carry about young trees, like Christmas trees, in the streets. In the evening there is an exodus from the towns to the surrounding forests and promontories overlooking the fjords. Boats can be seen loaded with merry-makers crossing the mirror-like waters in every direction. Fires are kindled on every position of advantage, and the whole long summer night is spent round them, singing, and dancing. What think the old gods as their ancient rights are celebrated under Christian guise?

Where Old Customs Still are Cherished

In the capital, in the chief seaports, like Bergen and Trondhjem, and along the line of the railways, the habits and manners of life of the people are gradually being assimilated to the uniform international standard of Europe. Education, association with foreigners, and that great leveller, the newspaper, are smoothing out the picturesque irregularities of national life. But still, by far the greater part of the interior of Norway remains inaccessible by railway, and can only be reached by long road journeys, and in winter by sleigh and snow-shoe. There the primitive simplicities of life still survive. There the old traditions and the old customs are still cherished, and the hardy stock, which still goes forth to seek adventures in all parts of the world, is reared under conditions which are practically identical with those of their remote ancestors.

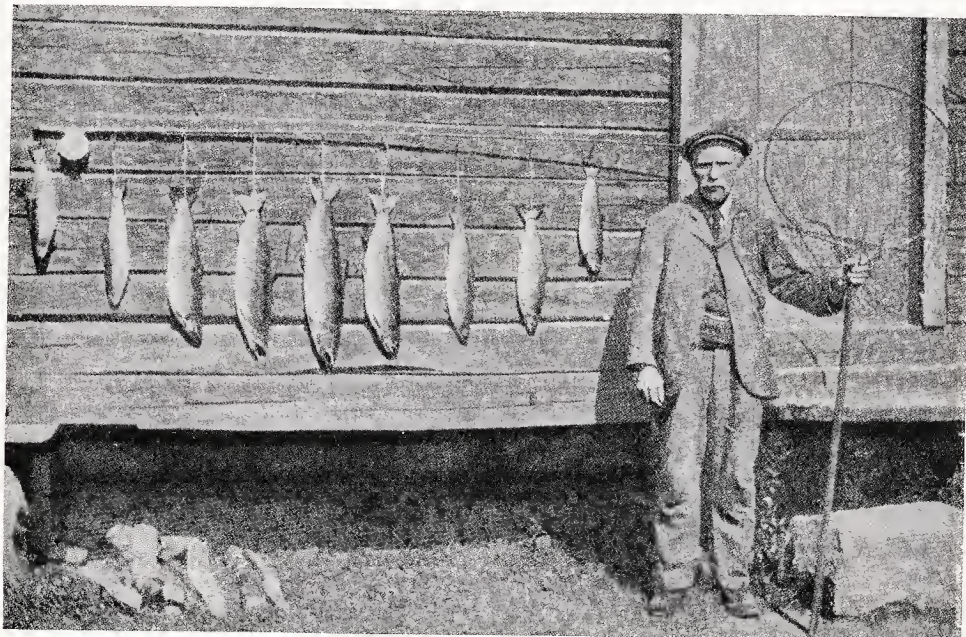
Innocence Driven Away by Progress

Nothing strikes the foreigner as more incongruous than the ancient custom of promiscuous bathing. This Garden of Eden simplicity and innocence is fast disappearing wherever the sophisticated ways of modern civilization have obtained a hold. The hot vapour bath



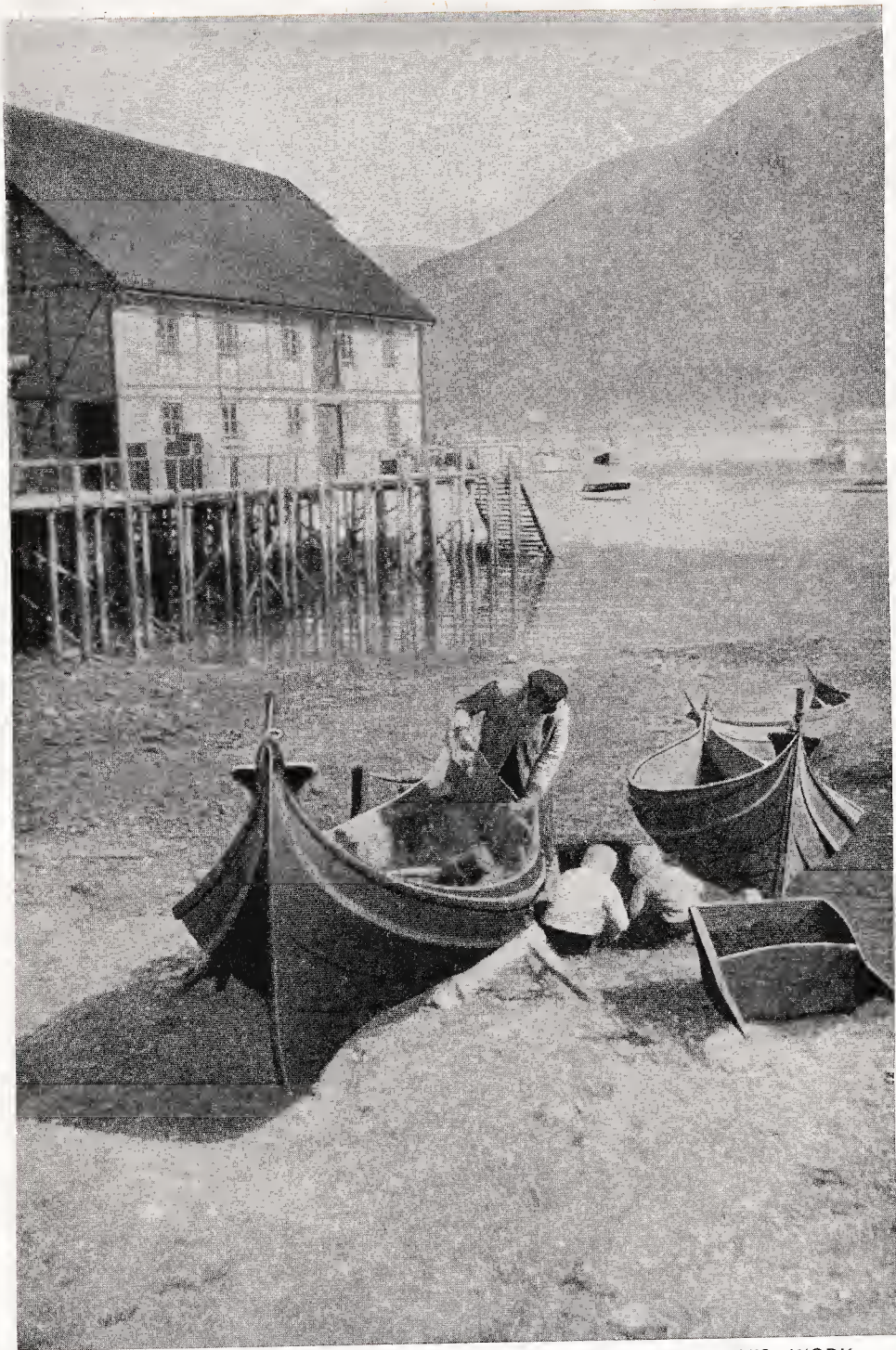
ANGLING FOR TROUT IN A BREEZE-RUFFLED NORWEGIAN TARN

In the numberless lakes, rivers, and brooks of Norway trout-fishing is free to peasant and leisured folk alike, and this palatable fish forms an inexpensive and a frequent summer delicacy both in town and in country. The bait is dropped into all likely places, chiefly near rocks and under banks; the capture of trout with the artificial fly being considered the highest form of the art of fishing



TROUT-FISHING: AT THE END OF A SATISFACTORY DAY

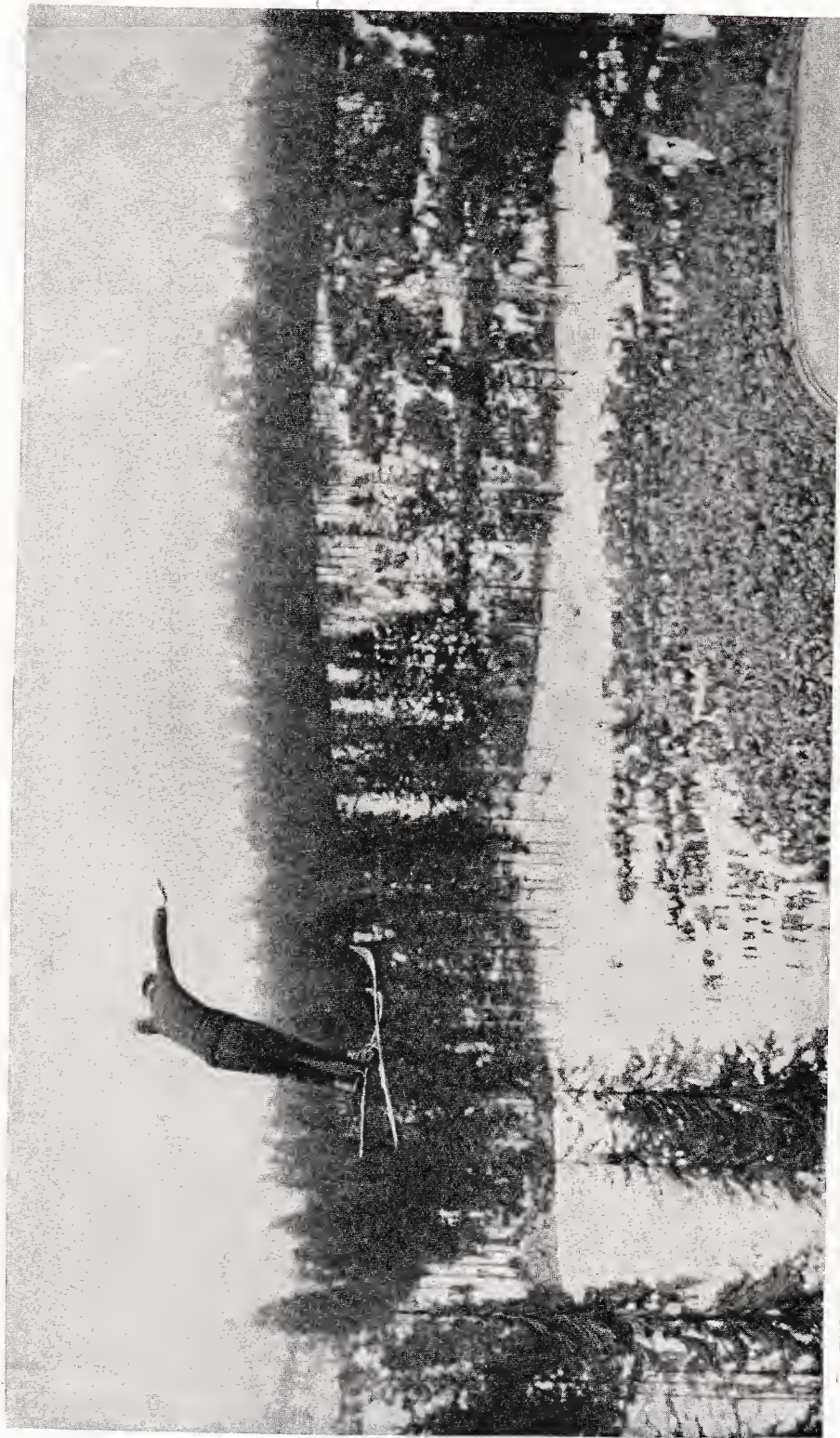
Fishing in Norway is confined more or less to specialists, and the farming communities do not now turn fishermen at the approach of a school of herrings as is reputed of them in the saga times. Whether in shop or in sea, fish are cheap enough in this well-watered country, and without undue physical exertion on his part the angler for trout can often boast of a considerable haul



FINISHING TOUCHES OF THE FISHERMAN AFTER THE DAY'S WORK

The house on piles is one of many similar buildings which the practical folk of the Norwegian coasts construct in order to place themselves and their belongings beyond the reach of the depredations of the waters. In the foreground a fisherman is making fast his boat for the night, while his young sons search for possible treasures in the nets at his side

Photo, F. H. Owens



EXPERT COMPETITOR NEGOTIATING A JUMP IN AN ANNUAL SKI-JUMPING CONTEST AT HOLMENKOLBAKKEN

Skiing, the national sport of Norway, is more than a pastime, it is an art, and an art which is part and parcel of the nation's life and identified with its health. One of the leading features of this sport is its democracy. Young and old, rich and poor, in every walk of life, give themselves joyfully over to its manifold risks and thrills—some for pleasure, others from necessity. Their love of the open air leads them far afield, and no little skill is required to "staa paa skis" (run on skis), for danger is always imminent and the mind must be continually on the alert, ready for instant decision in an emergency



SKI-ING DERBY OF NORWAY: WATCHING THE HOLMENKOLLEN LEAP

Every year, usually in February, thousands of spectators witness the ski contest, known as the Holmenkollen Leap. After descending a steep incline from a hilltop, the competitor jumps from a ledge high over the heads of the onlookers, speeding through the air like a bird. Only if he keeps his feet is the jump counted. Leaps of one hundred and thirty feet are recorded



SMALL FOLK VERSED IN NORTH-COUNTRY FAIRY LORE

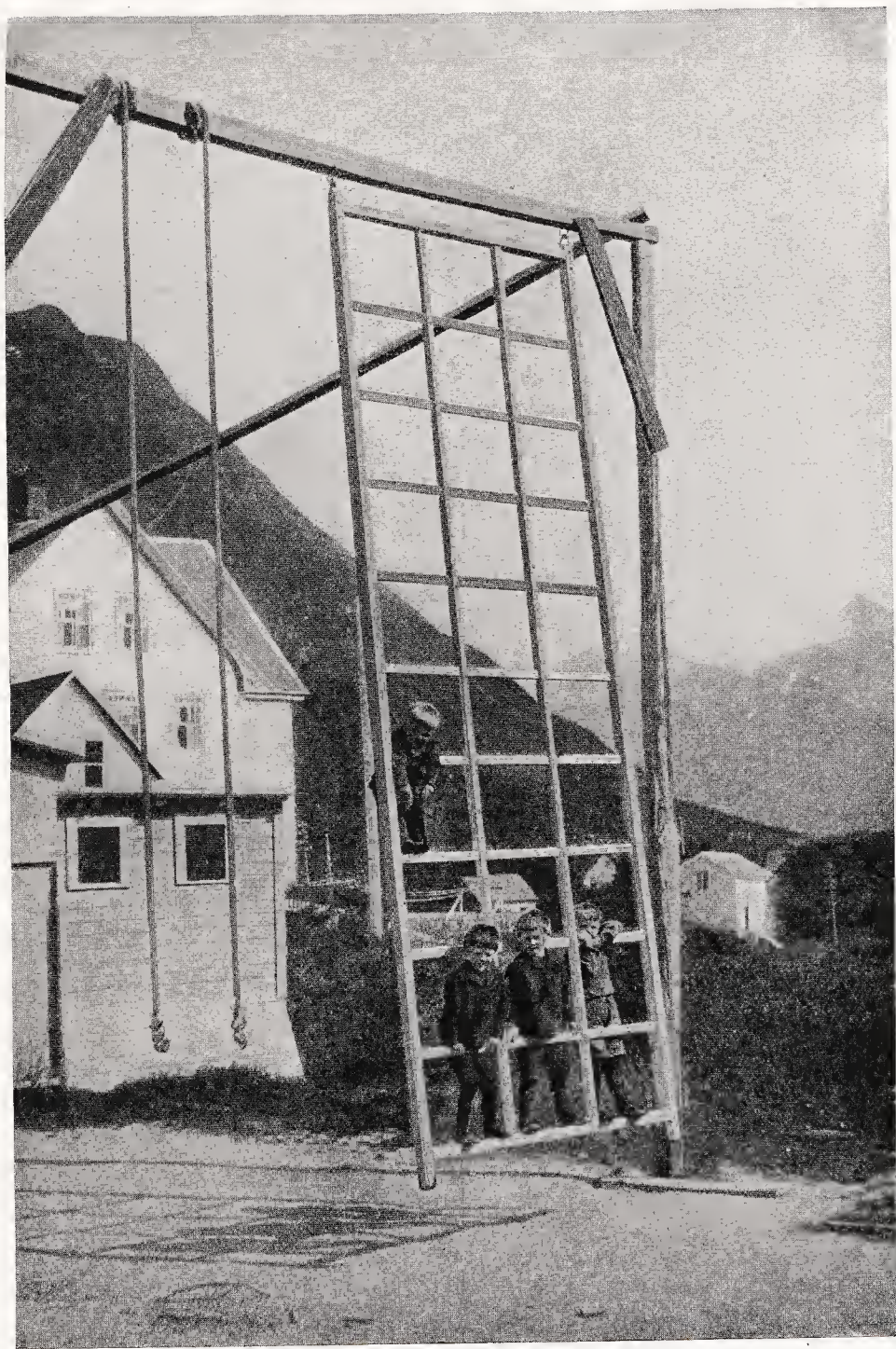
Norwegian girls of the Far North, they are coated in thick woollens suitable to the severe winters which hold their lands snow- and ice-bound for long months together. In these bleak and rugged regions strange superstitions are extant, and, according to prevailing child-lore, pixies, sprites, and witches still people the mountain solitudes which abound in the Land of the Midnight Sun

Photo, F. H. Owens

is one of the most widely enjoyed luxuries of the people of Northern Europe. A small log hut is set apart for this purpose. A furnace roughly built of large stones is heated red hot and water is then poured over the stones and the room is filled with dense clouds of steam. By such means the temperature is raised to that of a Turkish bath, inducing a copious flow of perspiration from the bathers. Every Saturday night all the members of the family, young and old, male and female, often with visitors and neighbours, crowd into the bath house in a state of nature. They switch each other with birch twigs to assist the

flow of perspiration. They pour buckets of cold water over each other to obtain relief from the intense heat. In winter they will rush out with skin as red as a lobster and roll in the snow bank before they return to their houses to complete their toilet and to don clean linen for the new week.

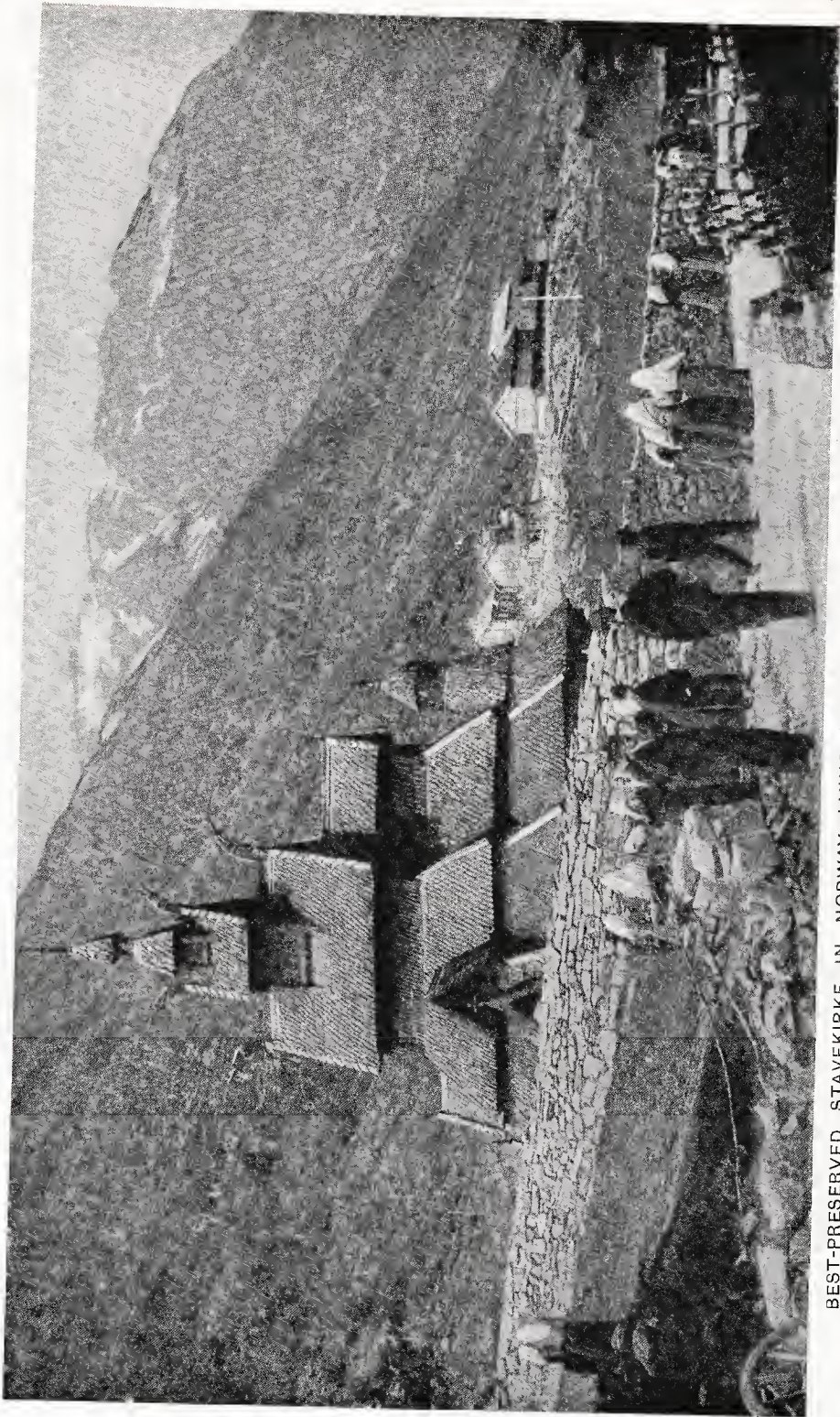
The Scandinavians have set an example to the world in the preservation of relics of the old-fashioned life and primitive culture of the people. This might almost be described as a branch of folk-lore, and it is only in comparatively recent times that scientific attention has been directed to it. The Northern Museum, at Stockholm, with



NORWEGIAN CHILDREN HAPPY AT THEIR VIGOROUS PLAY

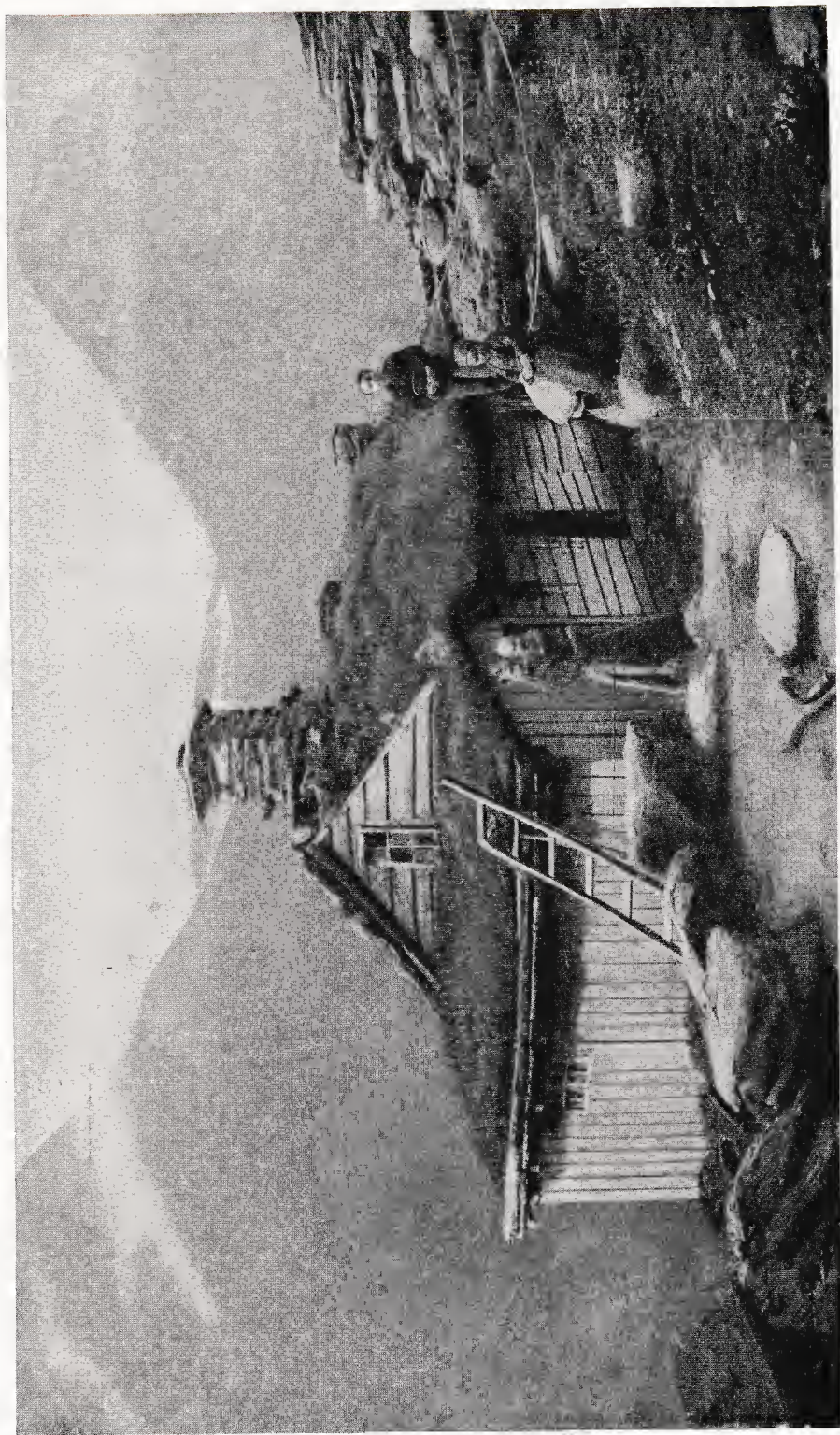
With tireless energy they roam the steep, rock-bestrewn slopes, and in their playgrounds romp without ceasing, performing acrobatic feats on the ropes and great swing ladders, which greatly assist the development of their sturdy, muscular forms

Photo, F. H. Owens



BEST-PRESERVED STAVEKIRKE IN NORWAY LYING IN THE SOLITARY MOUNTAIN VALLEY OF BORGUND

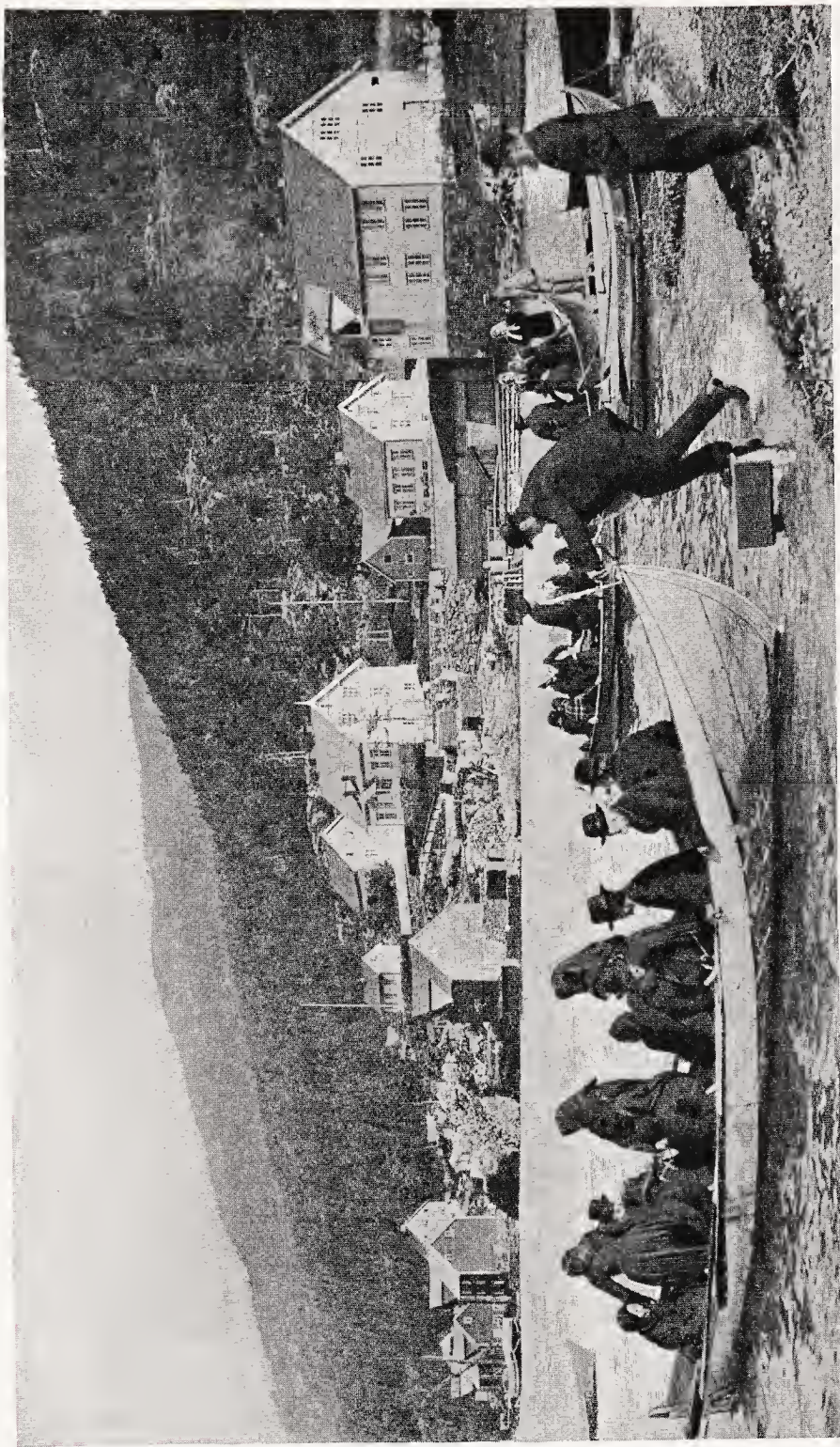
The Stave churches, found chiefly near the fjords, are said to be the most remarkable timber buildings in Europe. Of unknown origin, but distinct Eastern style, about three hundred were erected during the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Some twenty still exist, all constructed of soft coniferous wood; sometimes with a bell-tower as a separate structure—where a touch of Byzantine influence is seen; the many roofs covered with shingles—giving an appearance of scales. Angular ornaments surmount the summits, and in the dragon-head terminals to the gables lies a suggestion of the prows of the ancient Norse ships



INMATES OF AN "EAGLE'S NEST" PERCHED AMID THE MAGNIFICENT SCENERY ABOVE THE GEIRANGER FJORD

To the wild grandeur of the mighty precipices, majestic peaks, and delicate waterfalls of the Geiranger Fjord, is added a touch of romance by the appearance here and there of human dwellings—more like the nest of an eagle than the abode of man, perched on ledges of terrible cliffs which make a perpendicular plunge of some thousand feet into the watery gully beneath. These stupendous precipices are the most dangerous feature of the mountain homes, and when unattended the small children are usually tethered to poles to prevent them from straying over the edges of the cliffs

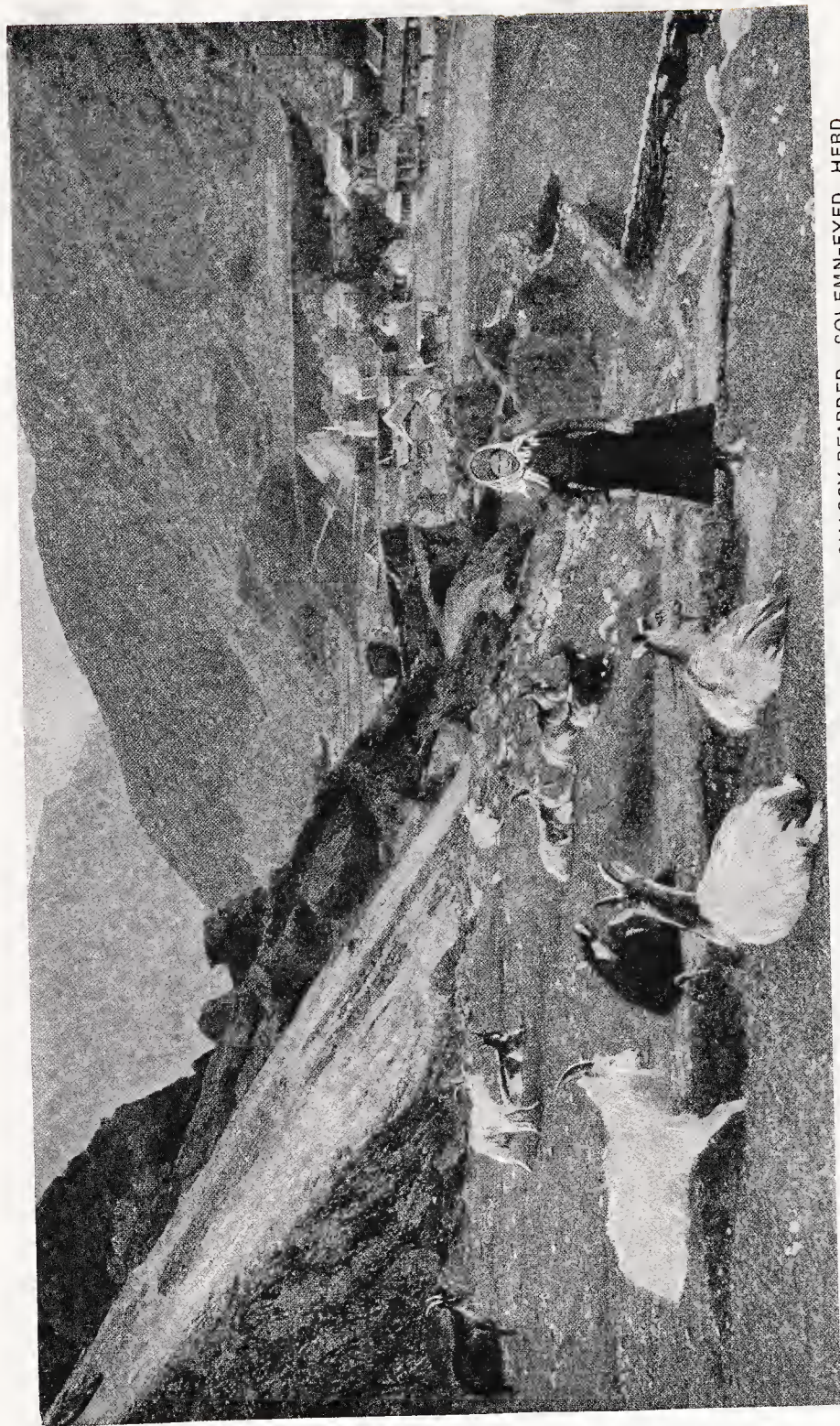
Photo, S. J. Beckett



HOW THEY GO TO CHURCH IN NORWAY: INHABITANTS OF UTNE VILLAGE TAKING A "SHORT CUT"

In Norway journeys are often made by boat, one of which is owned by most families who live near the water and manipulated alike by women and men. When going to town, to church, or to pay neighbourly visits, boats are used, for it generally takes more time to drive round a fjord than to row across it. Utne, a village beautifully situated on the south side of the fjord of the same name, has a large, picturesque church, and hither on the Sabbath morn come old and young, a few afoot, but many carried over the broad fjord by the serviceable church-boats

Photo, Underwood Press Service



GOAT-GIRL OF THE SOGNE VALLEY IN ATTENDANCE ON HER SHAGGY-BEARDED, SOLEMN-EYED HERD

Norwegian scenery in its most varied aspects, from the grand magnificence of lofty mountain to the soft beauty of humble valley homestead, may perhaps be seen at its best in the districts bordering the Sogne Fjord, where dotted about the lowlands or the steep rocky slopes living nature is described in the forms of grazing herds and flocks, watched over by young girls or lads. Goats are unusually numerous in Norway, due, perhaps, to the fondness of the inhabitants for gjetost, or goat's cheese—a palatable and nourishing diet, not unlike brown soap in appearance and with a curious sweet flavour all its own



MAIDS OF NORWAY AMONG THE BEAUTIES OF THEIR MOTHERLAND

In Norway the traveller can never feel bored by the monotony of his surroundings. On all sides a diversity of attractions is offered, but perhaps her chief beauty lies along the fretted and seaworn coast, where majestic waterways, walled in by mighty mountain ranges, penetrate far into the land. And there is a winsomeness and charm about her comely daughters that none can gainsay

Photo, Publishers' Photo Service

its open air annexe at Skansen, demonstrated the historical importance of such a collection, and the idea has since been developed in Christiania and Lillehammer in Norway, and more recently in the London Museum.

Lillehammer is the market town of Gudbrandsdal, the great inland valley which stretches from Lake Mjösen for over 100 miles through the very heart of the country. It is "the valley of valleys" for Norway. Its inhabitants number about 50,000, and here the old Norwegian types have been best preserved. Many of the farms have been in the possession of the same family

for five or six centuries, and some of the stalwart bønder or peasants claim to trace their descent, in saga-fashion, from the ancient kings who used to rule the land before it was consolidated into one kingdom. Among these peasants the old traditions, the old national costumes are preserved, though the old arts and crafts are disappearing before the competition of the factories.

In Det Norske Folkemuseum, on the peninsula of Bugdø, in the Christiania Fjord, and in the Sandvig Collection at Lillehammer, the remaining relics of these ancient arts and crafts and domestic usages have been piously



GENERAL ROOM IN A NORWEGIAN PEASANT'S COTTAGE

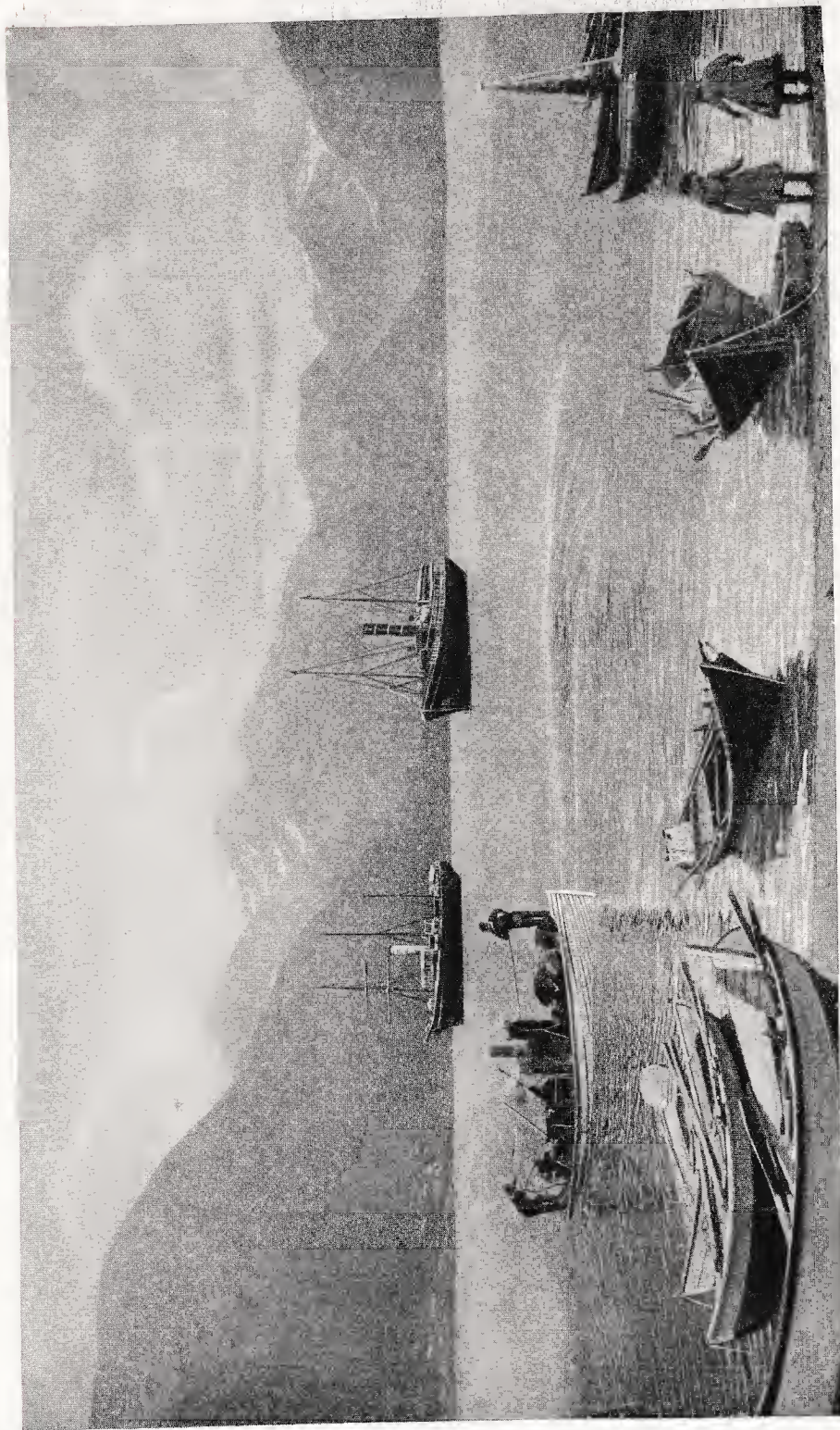
The living-room of the bonde, or peasant, despite a remarkable lack of ventilation, has an inviting appearance. The furniture is limited, but stove, table, bench, and chairs are always in evidence. In many places the carved spinning-wheel is still employed, and the bed is so constructed that a second bed, as it were, slides from under the first, enlarging it according to the space required



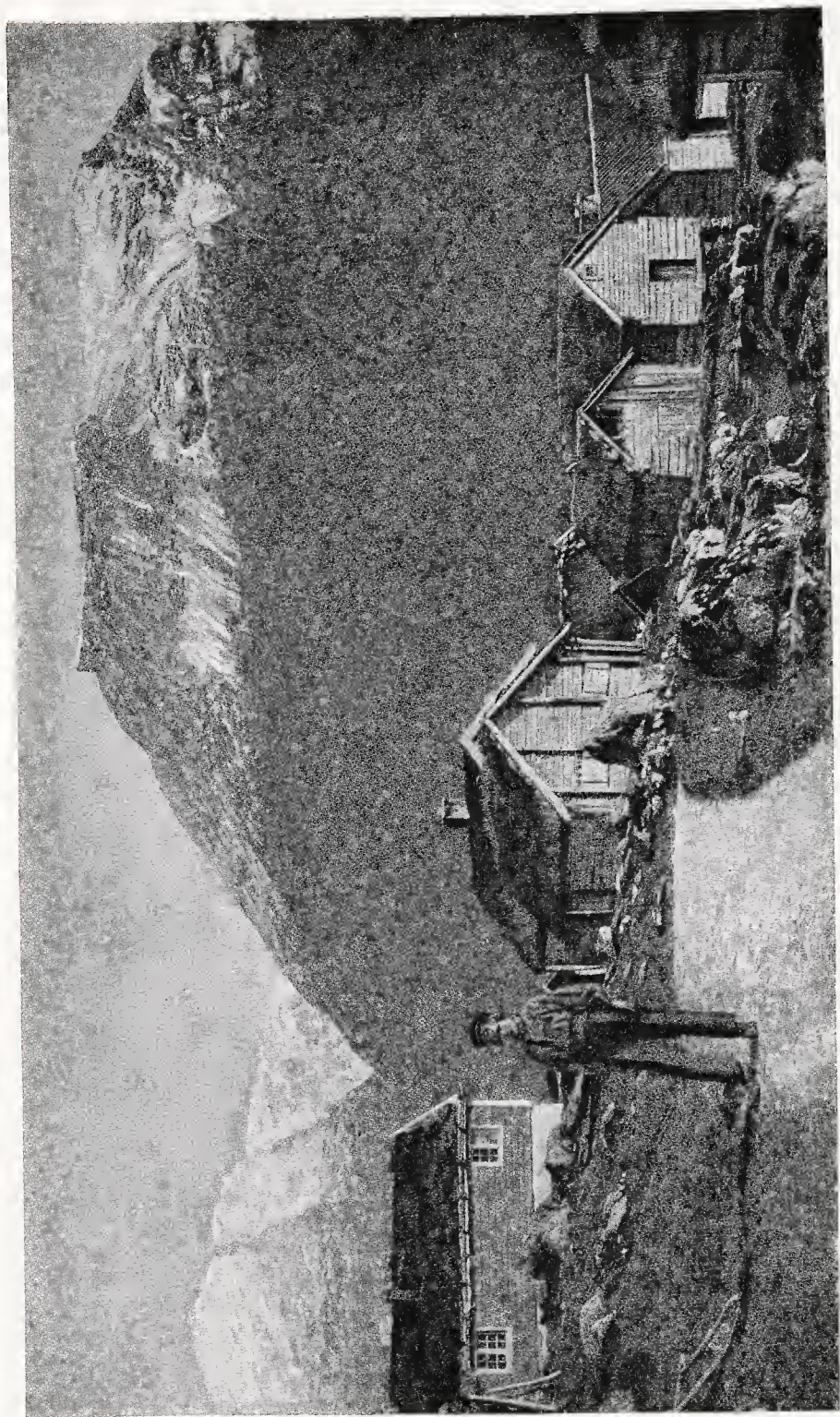
THREE GENERATIONS IN A FLOWER-CROWNED LOG CABIN OF ÖIE

Simple, honest, God-fearing people are the Norwegian peasants, full of a vigorous zest for life, and imbued with that great love of freedom which dominated their hardy Viking ancestors. Mountain farms are chiefly constructed of wood, with roofs of birch-bark covered with a layer of turf to make them impervious to rain, on which miniature flower-gardens oftentimes grow apace

Photos, S. J. Beckett



"TWO VOICES ARE THERE, ONE IS OF THE SEA, ONE OF THE MOUNTAINS, EACH A MIGHTY VOICE"
 Occupying the north bank of the River Rauma and situated on the lovely, mountain-girdled Isfjord, Aandalsnaes, or Naes, is the usual landing-place for the overland route to Christiania. Not far distant lies the famous Romsdal, or Valley of the Rauma, on the east of which rises the mighty Romsdalshorn, the Matterhorn of Norway, while on the west stand the wild Trolltinder, the so-called 'Witches' Peaks. Mountains and sea combine in imparting a majestic appearance to the harbour—the erstwhile playground of high-prowed Viking ships, and traditional romance rests lovingly on its restless waters and weather-worn rocky peaks



WHERE THE SERENE MAJESTY OF NATURE AND ARTLESS SIMPLICITY OF MAN UNITE IN A HARMONIOUS WHOLE. Grandly impressive are the heights which rise from the Nord Fjord and overlook the farmsteads and outhouses clustering on the road between Ulvik and Red. Poor, shabby dwellings are these log-buildings, but under their grass-grown roofs live a contented, kindly people, whose blood pulsates with the untamed spirit of the frowning snow-capped mountains, and whose hearts fondly cherish the old superstitious where trolls and kobolds hold fanciful yet all-powerful sway—as the cross inside a circle painted here and there on their doors as a preventive against mischief would testify



CHEERY CHILDHOOD IN THE CHEERLESS NORTH

Their thick, comfortable costumes, warm caps, and reindeer-shoes—not unlike those worn by their neighbours the Lapps, are well-suited to the inclement climate of the northerly regions where nature displays her most frowning and morose mood

preserved. Andeis Sandvig settled in Lillehammer, as a young dentist, in 1885. His hobby was the collection of old furniture, especially the carved and painted chests and cupboards which were so cherished in the valley, silverwork, wrought ironwork, costumes, weapons, and mechanical devices like locks, door catches, etc. But, most valuable of all, he rescued from destruction many specimens of the ancient log houses, in the erection of which the Gudbrandalers had developed an architectural style of their own.

These houses were built, not of sawn planks, but of whole timber or logs, no tool being used for the structural work but the axe. The buildings are of

different types, dating almost from saga times, some of them with curiously projecting and decorative "lofts." He had these buildings transported to his garden at Maihaug, Lillehammer, and had them re-erected round the shores of a pretty little lake among the trees on the hillside. They form the basis of the Sandvig Collections, now one of the most attractive features of this delightful little town.

The influence of the Scandinavian race throughout Europe for the past two thousand years has been continuous, and can be traced in the most characteristic features of Western civilization. But that influence has been chiefly exercised through the migration of large numbers of northmen and their settlement in the south. It is only within the past century that the people of Norway have begun to develop

institutions in their own homeland which have exercised a direct influence on European civilization. They were pioneers in such political experiments as the public control of the liquor traffic and the extension of the franchise to women.

In the realms of art and literature they strike a clear and distinctive note. The fresh and vivid impressionism of the Norwegian painters is well illustrated in the works of Fritz Thaulow. In literature there are two names of European importance. Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson wrote novels, plays, lyrics, and political pamphlets with all the vigour of the Viking ancestors whom he also resembled in physical type. He represents the sustained energy which



NORWAY: A DAUGHTER OF THE SNOWFIELDS

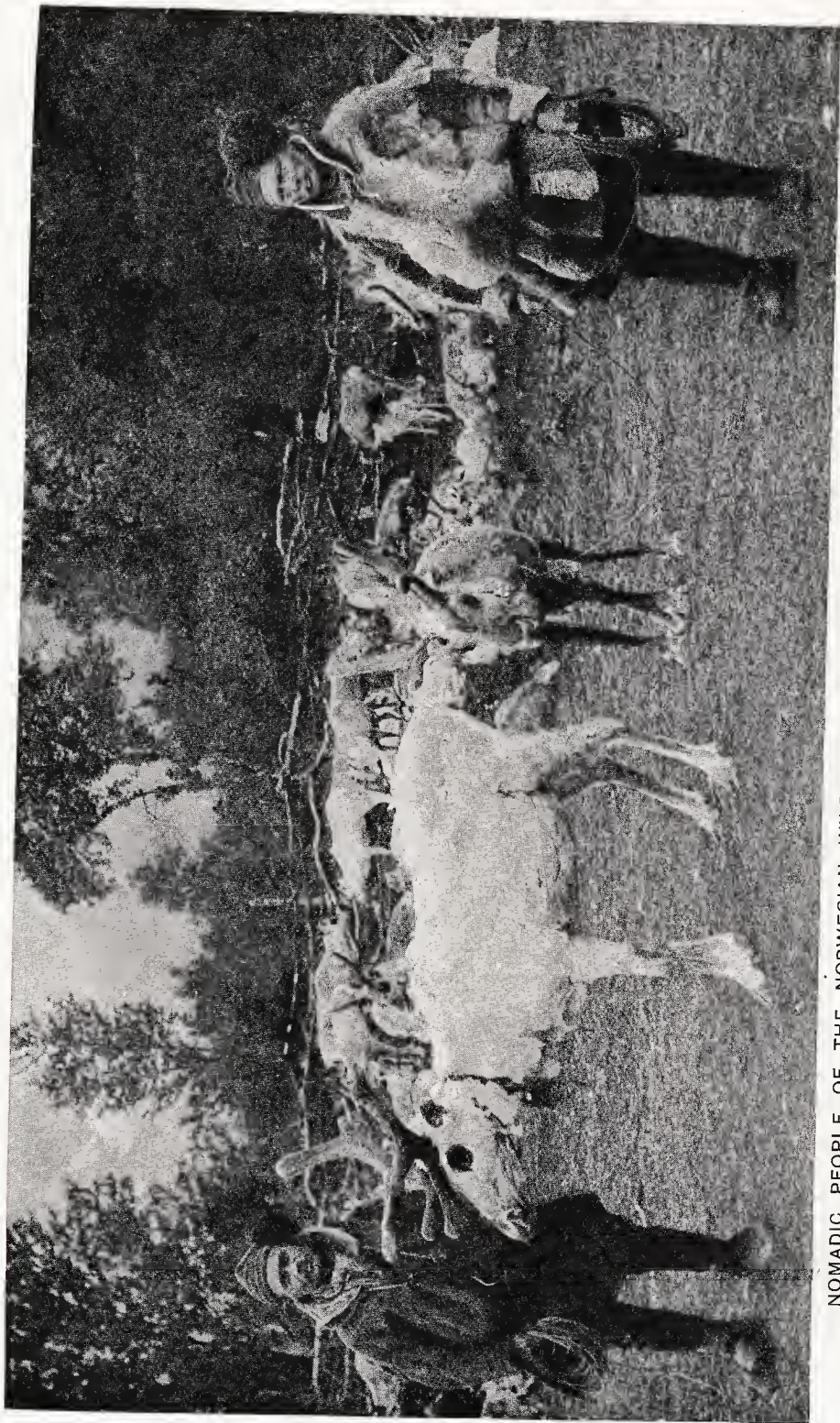
Though the land is one in which the people are said to be born with skis on their feet, the sleigh also has its place, and the pony drawn into its service is usually an affectionate and devoted pet

To face page 3872

Photo, Wilsa



WHERE THE DUTIES OF HOSPITALITY ARE HELD AS A SACRED TRUST
 These fanciful costumes are still in vogue in remote regions of northern Norway, where fashion is an empty word and the popular style is that which has been worn for many generations. The local taste for decorative design is indicated by the carvings on doorposts and lintels, while another pleasing characteristic is the ever "open door," affording access to all visitors—be they friend or foreigner



NOMADIC PEOPLE OF THE NORWEGIAN WILDERNESS AMONG THEIR SEMI-WILD HERDS OF REINDEER

In Norway Lapps are found in most districts lying north of Trondhjem. Though of poor muscular development, they are a sturdy people, and can endure long marching of several weeks together, living on the scantiest of rations. For food and clothing the nomad Lapps virtually depend on the reindeer, which they drive in enormous herds about the snow-decked highlands in summer and the sheltered valleys in winter—always in search of the reindeer moss, essential to the well-being of the animal. Wonderfully expert with the lasso, the Lapps seldom miss their mark when desirous of capturing any particular deer

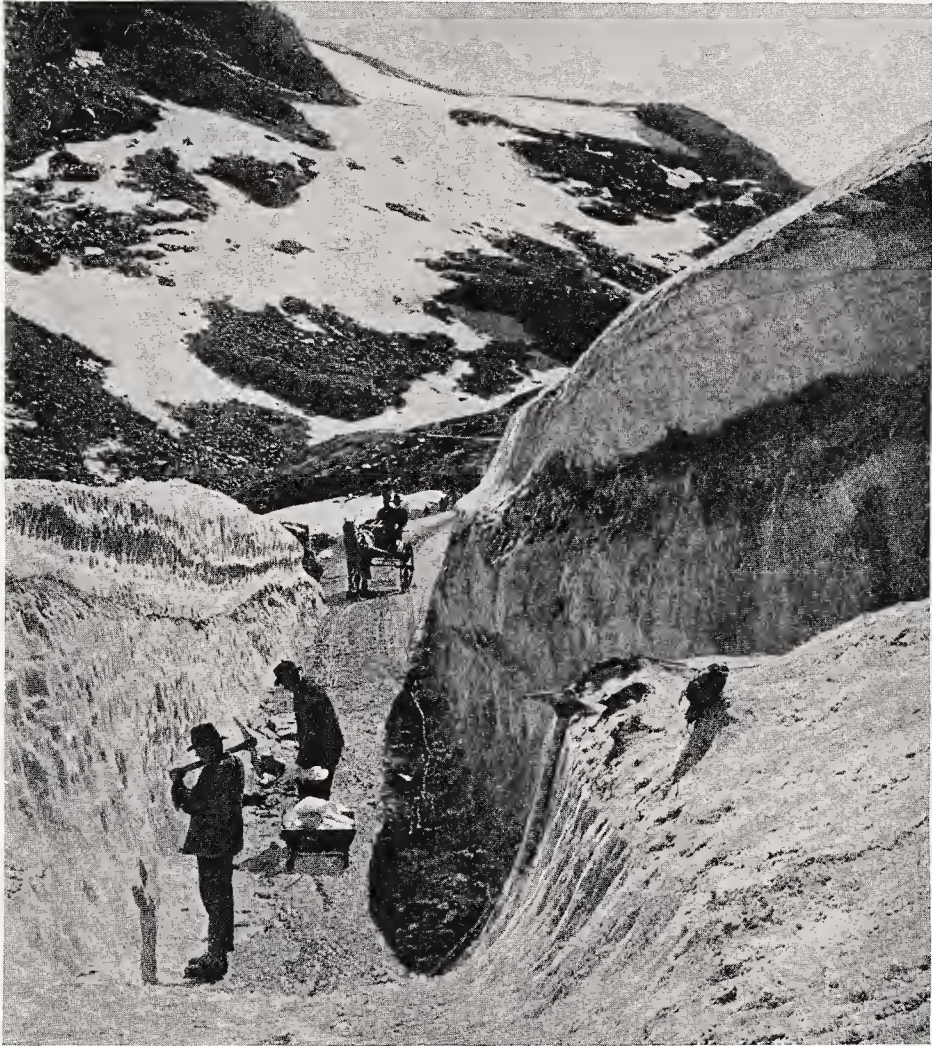
Photo, S. J. Becker

NORWAY & THE NORWEGIANS

the northern strain has contributed to the development of Europe. Henrik Ibsen's influence has penetrated further, for it was more in the realm of thought than of action. He stands for that irrepressible individualism which scorns the yoke of accepted tradition. Applied to religious dogma it produced the Reformation and the numerous sects of Protestantism. Ibsen applied it to the conventions and dogmas of social life.

Björnson was a Berserk who hewed with two-handed sword or battle-axe. Ibsen was a Skald whose songs sowed inflammatory doubts in men's minds.

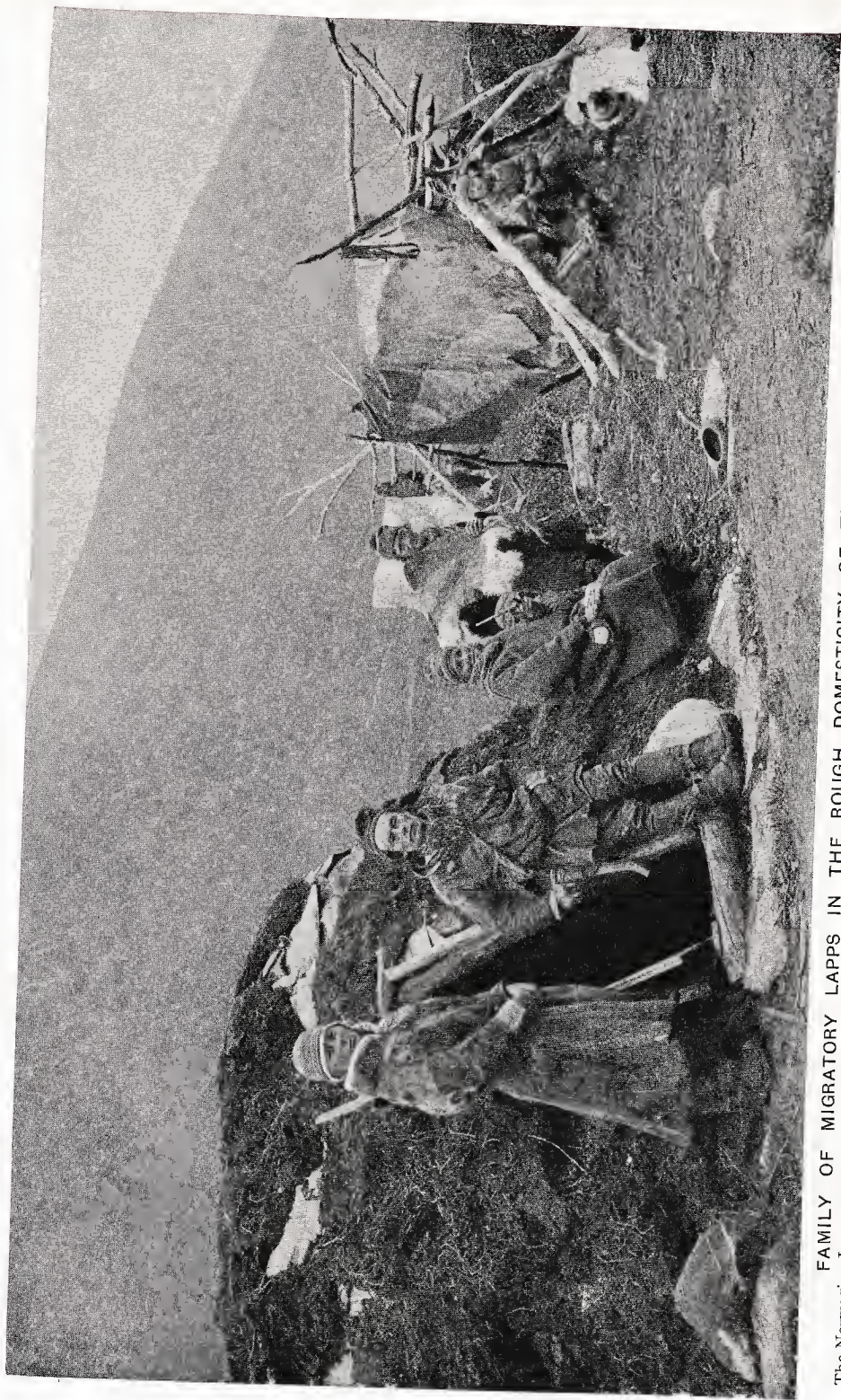
The old stock still remains in the old homeland. Its vigour has not decayed. In the north is the power house of the world. From it radiate the streams of vital energy which have revived jaded and languid nations, and saved the world from stagnation and decay.



DYRESKARD PASS: CLEARING A ROAD AFTER A SNOW AVALANCHE

Even in midsummer large masses of snow collect about the Dyreskard Pass, blocking the thoroughfare and rendering travelling impossible. The region is much exposed to the havoc of avalanches which, accompanied by loose earth and rocks, break away from the precipitous slopes of the mountain walls and so entirely overwhelm the pass that a tunnel has to be cut through them every year

Photo, Underwood Press Service



FAMILY OF MIGRATORY LAPPS IN THE ROUGH DOMESTICITY OF THEIR MOUNTAIN ENCAMPMENT

The Norwegian Lapps are divided between reindeer-nomads, coastal or riverside fishermen, and cattle-breeders. The huts of the nomad Lapps are rude circular structures built of boughs and turf, usually forsaken in favour of canvas tents during the summer months. The men and women dress alike in costumes largely derived from the reindeer; a distinctive feature of the women being the little "skull-cap," trimmed in front with narrow cheap lace. The modern Lapp has ceased to fear the camera, and, with a keen eye for business, not infrequently demands reward for allowing his photograph to be taken.

Photo, S. I. Beckel

Norway

II. From Harold Haarfager to Haakon VII.

By J. A. Brendon, B.A., F.R.Hist.S.

Writer on Modern European History

NORWAY, as an organized and independent nation-state, has a very short history. It did not attain to complete autonomy until 1905. The Norwegians, on the other hand, have a long and glorious history, a history full of romance.

At one period, the Norwegians were leading actors on the European stage. They continued as such for three hundred years at least—throughout the ninth, tenth, and eleventh centuries. Yet in the eighth century Europe hardly knew of their existence; in the thirteenth century they again sank into obscurity. Only recently have they begun to re-emerge.

In the days of long ago—indeed, since time immemorial—a seafaring race, a race of fishermen, had toiled laboriously for a bare subsistence in the winding, rock-bound bays along the coast of Norway. There were not many of these men. Norway is a cold and barren land; even to-day it can support only a small population. In the far-off ages food was very hard to find; and the clan of one bay had often to rely for the necessities of life upon what it could plunder from the clans of neighbouring bays.

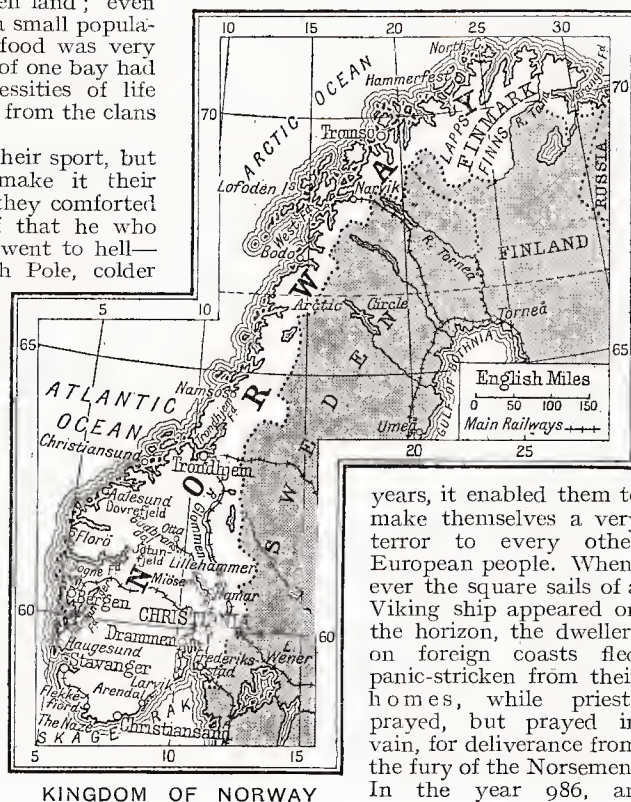
These people made war their sport, but frequently they had to make it their means of livelihood. And they comforted themselves with the belief that he who died peacefully in his bed went to hell—a hell near to the North Pole, colder even than Norway; while he who died fighting, as a man should die, went to Valhalla, and there could fight and drink for ever to his heart's content.

Norway at that time was no place for weaklings. Nor was it the place for a king or settled government. For this reason the Norwegians were one of the last of the white peoples to mature. Then suddenly, in the eighth century, they burst upon the world as a race of conquerors.

Had they organized as a nation before they expanded in conquest, they must have made themselves the masters of Europe. Instead, they

conquered as they had lived, without order or method; and in the end they dissipated their strength. Only now are they slowly recovering from the reckless expenditure of human energy incurred by their early ancestors. Upon Europe these wild men conferred incalculable benefits. Norway herself, however, could ill afford to lose all that virile blood which her sons lavished to enrich the races of mankind from the Baltic to the Black Sea, from the Gulf of Finland as far westward as America.

The Norwegians, being excellent craftsmen, evolved in course of time a fine ocean-going vessel for deep sea fishing. This was the famous Viking ship. The Viking ship could ride an Atlantic storm, and outsail any other type of vessel then afloat. It gave the Norwegians a mastery of the sea such as no people had hitherto possessed. From the latter part of the eighth century onwards for three hundred



years, it enabled them to make themselves a very terror to every other European people. Whenever the square sails of a Viking ship appeared on the horizon, the dwellers on foreign coasts fled panic-stricken from their homes, while priests prayed, but prayed in vain, for deliverance from the fury of the Norsemen. In the year 986, an

NORWAY'S STORY

intrepid Norseman, while making a voyage to Greenland, was blown out of his course and sighted an unknown land farther to the west. The story of his adventure made a deep impression on a fellow Norseman, Leif Eriksson by name. The adventurous Leif bought a ship and, with a crew of thirty-five men, set sail for the unknown land. Leif, it is believed, in the year 1000, touched the American continent first on the coast of what we now call Labrador, then on the coast of Nova Scotia, then somewhere in the neighbourhood of Cape Cod in Massachusetts.

From Tribal Foray to Piracy

Prior to the Viking age, Norwegian fought Norwegian; earls and kinglets preyed one upon another. Gradually, as the stronger ousted the weaker, earldoms or kingdoms—call them which you will—increased in size and strength. Inter-tribal frays thus became more hazardous and formidable undertakings. Yet honour—and necessity—still compelled chieftains to live by war. So, unable to make war safely and easily at home, they took to sailing to foreign parts in quest of plunder and adventure.

At first a chief would sail across perhaps to Denmark, or to Flanders, or to Scotland, attack some township or monastery, and then return home with the booty. In course of time, expeditions came to be conducted on more scientific lines. Fortifications were erected at the place of landing, and forays were made thence into the surrounding country. Later still, several chiefs would band together and, discarding the character of pirates, would assume that of conquerors. Even so, the Norsemen effected conquests without method; and, in the end, the vanquished, not the victors, were the gainers. Discipline, the power to endure, the will to achieve—these were the qualities the peoples of Europe acquired from their Viking masters.

Viking Ships Fraught with Terror

During the ninth century an incessant stream of adventurers flowed from Norway. The peoples of the Baltic, the peoples of Scotland, Ireland, France, and Spain, even those of the distant lands around the Mediterranean, all learned to dread the coming of the Viking ship. To England, for some inexplicable reason, only a few Norwegians found their way. Old sagas tell us of Norse chieftains who took service under the Saxon kings, and we learn of raids upon the coast, even of Norwegian expeditions holding up trade and shipping in the Thames. Yet, generally speaking, they left England as a field of conquest to their kinsmen, the Danes;

at any rate, until the eleventh century. For conquest and settlement the Norsemen favoured specially France, Ireland, Scotland, and the Scottish isles.

In 841, they plundered Rouen; in 845, they dared even to sack Paris. A few years earlier a Norse chieftain sailed up to Dublin. "After many sharp fights," according to the old chronicler, Giraldus Cambrensis, "he conquered in a short time all Ireland, and erected, wherever he went, high fortifications of masonry with deep moats, of which many ruins are yet to be seen in the country." At this time, too, Norsemen frequently visited the Orkneys, Shetlands, Hebrides, and Faroe islands. There they made permanent settlements. Norse blood still flows freely in the veins of the people of these islands; Norse names are common among them.

At last, towards the end of the ninth century, Norway produced a really "big" man. Harold Haarfager was his name, or Harold the Fairhaired. Harold had a clearly defined idea of national unity and, having by force of arms established his ascendancy over rival kinglets, he proceeded ruthlessly to reorganize the country on a feudal basis.

Fale Dawn of National Unity

To the proud and independent Norse chieftains, feudal obligations and the rule of law were quite intolerable. Why, they asked, should they not rob and plunder? To rob and plunder had been their unquestioned privilege since none knew when. Why should they pay dues and taxes? Such charges seemed to them to be humiliating impositions; he who submitted to them, they said, was unworthy to be called a freeman.

Thus Harold, though he made himself master of Norway, lost many of his bravest warriors. Rather than surrender their independence, these men sought homes in foreign lands. Some went to Iceland, and took with them a great school of Norse poets. Others went to France—notably Rollo the Walker. Rollo had to be a "walker"; he could not find anywhere a horse strong enough to carry his weight. Rollo and his followers ultimately accepted Christianity and, c. 912, settled in Normandy. From them sprang those men who later conquered England, Sicily, and southern Italy.

While Norway was thus weakening herself by emptying her best blood into foreign countries, the savage earls of the northland continued fiercely to maintain their struggle for independence against Harold Haarfager and his successors. One of the latter, Olaf Tryggvesson (994-1000), became, during his Viking wanderings, a convert to Christianity and,



AFTER THE ENROLMENT OF A NEW MEMBER IN THE VILLAGE CHURCH
The christening service is over in the church of Flaam, and the tiny lad has now been entrusted to the proud grandmother's careful arms. So remote is the little village of Flaam that the church is visited by a clergyman only once a month, when the attendance leaves nothing to be desired, even dogs accompanying their masters and staying quietly by their sides throughout the service

Photo, G. Long

NORWAY'S STORY

when he ascended the throne, ordained that all his subjects should also be baptized. Ferocious in his Christianity, as in all else, Olaf converted by the sword. Finally, he drove his heathen earls to league themselves with the kings of Denmark and Sweden, and was defeated and slain in battle.

End of the Romantic Period

For sixteen years the progress of Christianity was stayed in Norway. Then Olaf Haroldsson (1016-30) came to the throne. He is usually known as Olaf the Saint and, throughout the Middle Ages, was the patron saint of Norway. During his reign Norway became a Christian country. More than a century elapsed, however, before the Church was organized and given its own archbishop. The second Olaf, like the first, was a strong ruler. As such, he inevitably incurred the hostility of his nobility. Also he incurred the hostility of his powerful neighbour, Canute or Cnut, King of England and King of Denmark. Canute stirred up revolution in Norway; then, as leader of the movement, he conquered and made himself master of the land (1028).

Canute's great northern empire did not survive its founder's death. In 1035, a son of Olaf the Saint—Magnus by name—who had taken refuge in Russia, restored the Norwegian throne to the house of Haarfager; and, during the next few years, the Norwegians showed themselves still to be possessed of national vigour. Not only did they completely liberate their country from the Danish intruder, but in 1066 made a bold attempt to forestall their Norman kinsmen in the conquest of England.

Anarchy, Exhaustion, and Absorption

The Norwegian invasion was defeated by the English king, Harold, at the battle of Stamford Bridge, in Yorkshire, only three days before William the Conqueror landed at Pevensey. The battle of Stamford Bridge may be said to end the romantic period in the history of the Norwegian people. During the twelfth and thirteenth centuries their story is a dismal tale of racial suicide. Anarchy held sovereign sway; and, under a feeble monarchy, powerless to control internecine strife, the unruly nobility of Norway forced those brave fisherfolk, whose enterprise and daring actually had reshaped Europe, to wage remorselessly a fierce war of extermination on themselves.

In 1319 the house of Harold Haarfager became extinct. The crown of Norway then passed to the Swedish dynasty. Twenty-four years later, Margaret of Denmark, the widow of the Swedish king, succeeded—by means of the Union of

Calmar (1397)—in bringing the three Scandinavian kingdoms under her rule. The union was purely dynastic. Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, though they acknowledged the same sovereign, remained separate kingdoms, and in each, owing to the frequent and inevitable absence of the king, the too mighty subject got more and more out of hand.

In 1523, Sweden, under the leadership of Gustavus Vasa, threw off the Danish yoke. Norway could not escape. The people of Norway by this time had exhausted their strength; their natural leaders all were slain. Norway continued as a Danish province until 1814. During these centuries the country had no individual history; its story is all part and parcel of that of Denmark.

In 1807, during the Napoleonic wars, the Danes joined—or, rather, were forced to join—the side of Napoleon. The Swedes contrived to steer a safer course, thanks largely to the shrewd statesmanship of Marshal Bernadotte, the French soldier of fortune whom, in 1810, they elected as heir to their throne. In 1812, Sweden threw in her lot with the Grand Alliance and, in 1814, after Napoleon's fall, when the Peace of Kiel was concluded with Denmark, Bernadotte demanded that Sweden should receive Norway as the price of her cooperation.

Struggle Ends in Independence

Thus Norway was severed from Denmark, and joined to Sweden. For ninety-one years the country remained under the Swedish crown. But the union was not accomplished without difficulty. The Norwegians offered a stubborn opposition, and would not surrender until they had secured the recognition of a very democratic constitution, and a large measure of legislative and administrative independence.

The people of Norway had no love for their former Danish masters. Nevertheless, they deeply resented the callous indifference with which the Great Powers, in 1814, tossed them over from a Danish to a Swedish allegiance. The nineteenth century, it must be remembered, was essentially the age of nationalism. Between 1800 and 1900, a long drawn-out process of political evolution reached a climax, and everywhere new nation-states came into being. In the Balkans, in South America, in Belgium, Italy, and Germany, the spirit of nationalism called insistently to men. Even in the unchanging East, in far Japan: in North America, too, in Australia, and in South Africa, the voice was heard; there also arose nation-states under the aegis of the British crown.

The terms of the Peace of Kiel sufficed to awaken the Norwegians from their

NORWAY'S STORY

long hibernating torpor. They were given anew a sense of national consciousness; and the history of their country, during the union with Sweden, resolves itself into a constant and persistent striving on the part of the smaller state to break away and achieve independence.

Successive kings of the house of Bernadotte strove alternately by repression and concession to preserve the union. It was an impossible task. In 1884, the Norwegians were given Home Rule. Even that did not satisfy them; and at last, in 1905, after prolonged and difficult negotiations, the Norwegian Storting, or parliament, formally deposed King Oscar of Sweden, and declared the union dissolved.

During the course of these negotiations, the menace of civil war on several occasions hung ominously over the Scandinavian countries. That the revolution was accomplished in the end peaceably and without bloodshed can be attributed largely to the tact and statesmanship of a worthy successor of the Vikings of old, Professor Nansen, the famous Arctic explorer.

Having secured independence, it remained for the Norwegians to find a king. The choice of the Storting fell upon Prince Charles, a younger son of the Crown Prince of Denmark. Prince Charles accepted the offer made to him and, in November, 1905, ascended the Norwegian throne as Haakon VII. Not since the death of Haakon Longlegs, the last of the

house of Haarfager (1319), had the Norwegians had a king all to themselves.

Prince Charles of Denmark was married to a British princess, the youngest sister of King George V. On this account, his election to the Norwegian throne gave much offence at Berlin. The ex-Emperor William II. feared it must necessarily enhance British influence in Scandinavia, and so make Germany's position very difficult in the event of war. "If it is to be Charles," he wrote to his chancellor, Prince von Bülow, "England, by fair means or foul, will stick her fingers in Norwegian affairs, gain influence, begin intrigues, and finally, by the occupation of Christiansand, close the Skagerak." But the Kaiser's opposition did not keep Prince Charles from his throne and, under the rule of King Haakon VII., Norway has advanced with giant strides.

During recent years British influence has, perhaps, increased in Scandinavia. But Britain has not begun intrigues; and Norway, in the Great War, was able to preserve her neutrality. But at a very heavy price.

The Norwegians still are, as they always have been, essentially a seafaring people. Agriculture, though now pursued with vigour, can be made to yield only a small percentage of the produce required for home consumption. The people have still to import most of their food, and a large part of the population still looks to the fisheries for a livelihood.

NORWAY: FACTS AND FIGURES

The Country

Occupies western and northern portions of Scandinavian peninsula, bounded north by Arctic Ocean, south by Skagerak, the channel separating it from Denmark, west by North Atlantic, and east by Sweden and Finland. Main portion of land consists of mountainous plateau averaging from 2,000 to 3,000 feet in height. Only in the south-east is there any low-lying country. The plateau is pierced by several deep valleys, giving facilities for roads and railways. The coastline is long, measuring over 2,000 miles, the total area of the kingdom being nearly 125,000 square miles, with a population of over 2,500,000. The Arctic archipelago of Spitsbergen under Norwegian sovereignty has an area of 25,000 square miles.

Government and Constitution

Hereditary and constitutional monarchy with legislative power in hands of the Storting or parliament, for which women are eligible, elected by universal suffrage. King holds executive power through a cabinet of at least eight ministers, and may twice veto any bill, but on third re-enactment of parliament veto is cancelled. Storting meets on its own initiative without summons by the King.

Defence

Army consists of national militia with universal and compulsory service from years of eighteen to fifty-five. Total peace strength about 138,000 men. Navy designed solely for coast defence, and includes four old battleships, two gunboats, thirty-three destroyers and torpedo-boats, and

four submarines. All seamen between the ages of twenty and forty-four liable for naval service.

Commerce and Industries

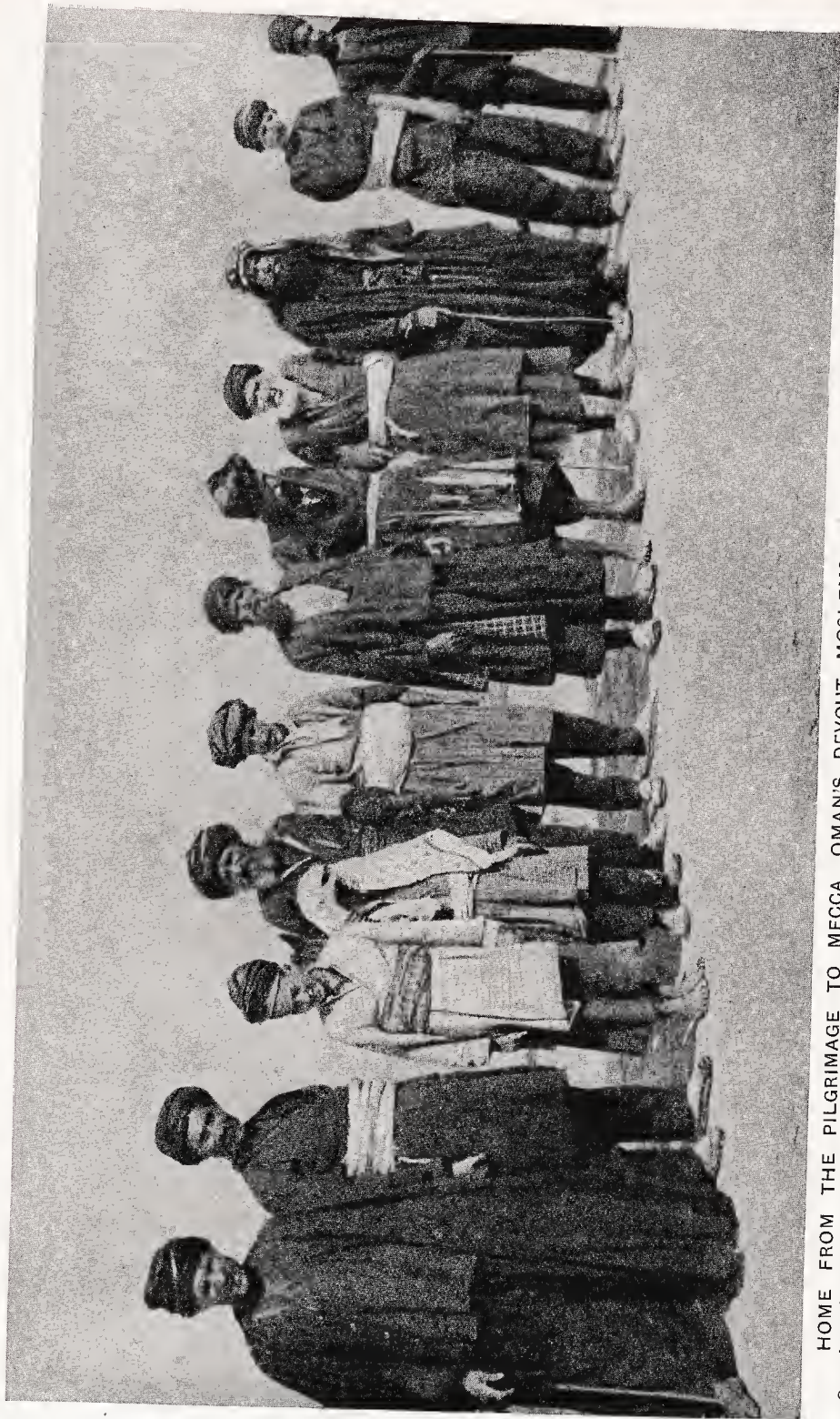
Country unsuited to agriculture except in isolated sections. Twenty-one per cent. of whole area is covered by forest, only three per cent. being cultivated. Large output in wrought and partially wrought timber, while mineral deposits include silver, copper-ore, felspar, and pyrites. Cod, herring, and mackerel, whale, salmon, and seal fisheries form important sources of wealth. Coal is worked at Spitsbergen. In 1919 the imports of which textile manufactures, bread-stuffs, tallow, oils, and tar were among the chief, amounted to 2,583,745.700 kroner, and exports for the same year, including animal produce, unwrought minerals, vessels, carriages, and machinery, totalled 782,087,400 kroner. Norway in 1875 adopted similar monetary system to Denmark and Sweden, the normal value of the kroner being 18 to the pound sterling.

Communications

Total railway mileage reaches 2,072 miles, mainly state-owned. There are 91,600 miles of telegraph and telephone wire, with eleven wireless stations in Norway, and one at Spitzbergen.

Chief Towns

Christiania, capital (estimated population, 258,300), Bergen (91,000), Trondhjem (54,500), Stavanger (44,000), Drammen (26,174), Hauge-sund (16,500), Aalesund (16,300), Christiansand (16,500).



HOME FROM THE PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA, OMAN'S DEVOUT MOSLEMS BEAM WITH RIGHTEOUS SATISFACTION Omanite politics have been sorely troubled by religious dissensions following upon the people's repudiation of allegiance to the Caliph Haroun Al Raschid and their election of their own Imams, of whom Abdullah ibn Ibad was the first. Known as Ibadites, the Mahomedans of Oman hold heretical views on several points of dogma, but they all recognize the obligation of making the pilgrimage to Mecca. More tolerant than the orthodox Moslems they permit strangers to enter their mosques, which lack the conventional minaret and thus are not easily distinguishable from ordinary dwelling houses